

**LET  
GOD  
ARISE!**

*The Battle Belongs to the Lord  
Prayer Guide #5*

*Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis*



**Jehoshaphat and the Moabites**

2 Chronicles 20.12-15

**Like a River Glorious**

*Frances R. Havergal and James Mountain*

Like a river glorious, is God's perfect peace,  
Over all victorious, in its bright increase;  
Perfect, yet it floweth, fuller every day,  
Perfect, yet it groweth, deeper all the way.

Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest  
Finding, as He promised, perfect peace and rest.

Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,  
Never foe can follow, never traitor stand;  
Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,  
Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.

Every joy or trial falleth from above,  
Traced upon our dial by the Son of Love;  
We may trust Him fully all for us to do.  
They who trust Him wholly find Him wholly true.

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**Though God’s enemies often harass his people, God protects his own**

Ps. 56.3-4 - When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. [4] In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

Isa. 37.3-4 - They said to him, “Thus says Hezekiah, ‘This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. [4] It may be that the Lord your God will hear the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the Lord your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.’”

2 Chron. 20.1-4 - After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. [2] Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar” (that is, Engedi). [3] Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. [4] And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

Ps. 24.5-6 - He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. [6] Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Ps. 50.14-15 - Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, [15] and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.

Ps. 60.10-12 - Have you not rejected us, O God? You do not go forth, O God, with our armies. [11] Oh, grant us help against the foe, for vain is the salvation of man! [12] With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.



*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)*

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**The righteous cry out to God in the day of trouble and he rescues them**

2 Chron. 33.12-13 - And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. [13] He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.

Ps. 77.2 - In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.

Ps. 91.15 - When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

Ps. 107.6-13 - Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. [7] He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. [8] Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men! [9] For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things. [10] Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons, [11] for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. [12] So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help. [13] Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

Ps. 107.19 - Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

Ps. 107.28 - Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

Zech. 13.9 - “And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name,



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and I will answer them. I will say, ‘They are my people’; and they will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’”

Deut. 4.31 - For the Lord your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

Deut. 7.8-9 - but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. [9] Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

**With God on their side, those who trust in him need not fear the foe**

Exod. 14.13-14 - And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. [14] The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

Deut. 1.29-30 - Then I said to you, “Do not be in dread or afraid of them. [30] The Lord your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes.”

Deut. 20.1 - When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

Deut. 20.4 For the Lord your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.



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Deut. 31.6-8 - Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. [7] Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. [8] It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

Josh. 11.6 - And the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire."

2 Chron. 32.7-8 - "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. [8] With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

Neh. 4.14 - And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

Ps. 17.1-2 - Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry! Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit! [2] From your presence let my vindication come! Let your eyes behold the right!

Isa. 41.10-16 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. [11] Behold, all who are incensed against you shall be put to shame and confounded; those who strive against you shall be as



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nothing and shall perish. [12] You shall seek those who contend with you, but you shall not find them; those who war against you shall be as nothing at all. [13] For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not, I am the one who helps you.” [14] Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the Lord; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel. [15] Behold, I make of you a threshing sledge, new, sharp, and having teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and crush them, and you shall make the hills like chaff; [16] you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the tempest shall scatter them. And you shall rejoice in the Lord; in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.

Isa. 43.1-2 - But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. [2] When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”

**During times of crisis, the righteous pray to God above for help**

2 Chron. 20.5-12 - And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, [6] and said, “O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. [7] Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? [8] And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, [9] ‘If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.’ [10] And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade



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when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy— [11] behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. [12] O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

1 Chron. 29.11-12 - Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. [12] Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

Deut. 4.39 - Know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.

Josh. 2.11 - And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

1 Kings 8.23 - and said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart.”

Ps. 115.3 - Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

Isa. 57.15-16 - For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite. [16] For I will not contend



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forever, nor will I always be angry; for the spirit would grow faint before me, and the breath of life that I made.”

Isa. 66.1 - Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?”

**In the end, we must keep our eyes upon the Lord for strength and grace**

2 Chron. 20.12 - O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.

Ps. 25.15 - My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Ps. 121.1-2 - I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?  
[2] My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Ps. 123.1-2 - To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! [2] Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he has mercy upon us.

Ps. 141.8 - But my eyes are toward you, O God, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!

Jon. 2.4 - Then I said, “I am driven away from your sight; Yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.”

Lam. 5.19-21 - But you, O Lord, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations. [20] Why do you forget us forever, why do you forsake us for



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so many days? [21] Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored!  
Renew our days as of old.

**God ultimately judges his enemies and vindicates his people**

Deut. 32.36 - For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free.

Ps. 7.6 - Arise, O Lord, in your anger; lift yourself up against the fury of my enemies; awake for me; you have appointed a judgment.

Ps. 7.8 - The Lord judges the peoples; judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me.

Ps. 9.19 - Arise, O Lord! Let not man prevail; let the nations be judged before you!

Ps. 43.1 - Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!

Isa. 2.4 - He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Isa. 42.4 - He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.

Joel 3.12 - Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.



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Rev. 19.11 - Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.

**The battle is not ours, but God's**

2 Chron. 20.15-17 - And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. [16] Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. [17] You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you."

1 Sam. 17.47 - And that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand.

2 Chron. 32.8 - "With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

**We must learn to be still, and wait on God's presence and salvation**

Ps. 46.10-11 - "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" [11] The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Isa. 30.7 - Egypt's help is worthless and empty; therefore I have called her "Rahab who sits still."



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Isa. 30.15 - For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling.

Lam. 3.26 - It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

2 Chron. 32.8 - “With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

Ps. 46.7 - The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.  
Selah

Isa. 41.10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Amos 5.14 - Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said.

Matt. 1.23 - Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us).

Rom. 8.31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

**Believe in the Lord and you will be established and conquer**

2 Chron. 20.20 - And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your



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God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed.”

Isa. 7.9 - “And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all.”

Isa. 26.3 - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Heb. 11.6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Heb. 10.22-23 - let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. [23] Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ■

*WHAT WOULD you consider one of the most pervasive signs of the demonic in our 21st century societies today?*

There are a number of ways you might choose to answer such a question. Is it the prevalence of ritualistic religion in animistic societies, the influence of the great utilitarian world religions? Could it be the constant threat of the mad, senseless terrorist violence that preys on the innocent and keeps us all on guard? Might it be the widespread persecution of believers globally, many of whom are languishing in prison or suffering deprivation and hurt? Could it not be the run amuck greed of the nations that is exploiting the poor, ruining our environments, and causing such misery among so many millions globally?



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Let me ask again: *What would you consider one of the most pervasive signs of the demonic in our 21st century societies today?*

In my judgment, unrestrained fear in all of its various forms and modes is one of the enemy's most effective weapons, that preys on the minds, hearts, and consciences of millions of human beings today.

Fear, in all its multiple manifestations (e.g., of death, of sickness, of loss, of poverty, of rejection, of misery, of aloneness, of neglect, of trouble, etc.) fuels industries of protection and false foundations to secure from harm. Mottos of our so-called protectors blare over the airwaves daily, promising to be there for us "like a good neighbor," or suggesting that in a crisis or time of critical loss, we'll be "in good hands" as we rely on their companies. Of all the ironic things, insurance companies (among others) recruit and reassure their customers that in the event of loss or tragedy, they will come through for us. They are our mini-messiahs, our foundation stones of help and protection.

The postmodern person and family is so inundated with the prospect of loss, lack, and loneliness that much of their daily lives is aimed at securing them against the prospect of trouble and need. We'll be sick, so we need insurance; we'll get old, so we'll need retirement, we'll die, so we need monies to secure our loved ones after death. Please, do not misread this essay. I am not advocating that we abandon insurance plans or scuttle our retirement packages. Rather, I am saying that with fear and need and dread as the underlying motives of much of society's actions today, the prospect of being without help during a time of trouble becomes the new mega-category of evil. This kind of fear, when it becomes irrational and overwhelming, can break down one's internal confidence and shatter our psychological equilibrium. As John the Apostle testifies, fear has to do with punishment, with torment (1 John 4.18, KJV).



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This year we focus on the *Christus Victor* theme of Scripture, which highlights the victory God has won for his people through the person and work of Jesus Christ. In him, we need not fear, for God has conquered our enemies (i.e., sin, Satan, death, the curse) through his shed blood and risen life. What is significant in this story of Jehoshaphat is the practical way in which *Christus Victor* is applied: *No matter how godly and sincere you may be, you can wind up depending on the wrong people, bad advice, and phony solutions.* Only God is a sufficient strength for us during times of trouble.

We are finite, small, vulnerable, weak. Trouble, calamity, and danger loom all around and over us. Those of us who believe in Christ need not be driven by the same mindless fear that shapes so many lives today. During crisis, we are literally (and wonderfully?) forced to seek the Lord as the ground of our life and the source of our hope.

When Jehoshaphat was confronted with a huge malevolent army determined to wipe Israel from the face of the map, he did not seek human allies or military solutions. On hearing the threat of the Moabite alliance to destroy Judea, Jehoshaphat was afraid in a godly sense, and set his face to seek the Lord, and commanded the people to join him in that spirit of prayer, dependence, and humility:

*2 Chron. 20.1-4 - After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. [2] Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi). [3] Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. [4] And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.*



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My mother used to instruct us as children that the key to living in God is never to confuse your role in life with God's. Truly, Jehoshaphat's prayer reveals a deep understanding of who God is and what God (and only God) can do in the face of our enemies and eminent destruction. Walter Kaiser (*Quest for Renewal*) summarized Jehoshaphat's prayer in five propositions that underscore his view of God:

1. God rules over all kingdoms of the nations (2 Chron. 20.6).
2. God delights to do what he has promised to do (2 Chron. 20.7-11).
3. God judges all who oppose his work (2 Chron. 20. 12).
4. God delivers us from all our distresses (2 Chron. 20.14-17).
5. God upholds those who believe him and his Word (2 Chron. 20.18-30).

His prayer reveals that the devil need not destroy us through fear and dread of the enemy. This simple outline highlights an essential truth: God and God alone is the source our of hope, our life, and our strength. Amazingly, nothing reminds us of our neediness and finiteness before God more than real trouble, the kind we can't easily shake loose and won't simply be resolved or go away; the kind of trouble that keeps us awake at night, that gnaws on the spirit, and wearies our hearts and minds from anxious deliberation and overmuch thinking; the kind of trouble that no pat answer or glib comment can satisfy or silence.

We win only through God, and only when we ask God to act on our behalf can we be victorious.

*2 Chron. 20.12 - "O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."*



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Fear is looking at the trouble, faith is looking at the God of truth. Fear is worrying about the circumstance, faith is waiting on the Lord. Fear is gazing at the consequences, faith is gazing at God's provision and promise.

God answered Jehoshaphat's prayer through the prophet Jahaziel:

*2 Chron. 20.15 - And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.'"*

In a glorious scene with the choir marching before the army, God delivered the surrounding armies up to Judah without their aggression. God caused confusion among the enemies, who destroyed *themselves*—a striking end with none of the enemy's armies able to escape, and so much bounty in terms of spoils that three days of gathering wasn't sufficient to retrieve it all (cf. vv. 24-26). On the fourth day the people blessed the Lord for his amazing deliverance and great provision.

During this season of Eastertide, let us join in the faith of Jehoshaphat while we gaze at our victorious conquering Savior on the Cross. Jesus of Nazareth is our Triumph; through him we need not be driven by the sirens of fear and prospect of loss and trouble that animates so much of society's efforts today. Rather, armed with faith and a commitment to persevere in God's promise, let us stand still and see the Lord work, waiting on him in and through every circumstance.

We cannot win on our own, and our own strength and wisdom will fail us. We must affirm, like Jehoshaphat that we, like him and the Israelites, are powerless against the multitude coming against the cities of America and the world, nor do we know what to do. Truly, may we, like Jehoshaphat and



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the fasting nation, turn our eyes to the One who alone can provide us with grace and help in this, our desperate time of need.

The perfect love of God casts out all fear. Jehoshaphat's affirmation is essential for us today:

*2 Chron. 20.20 - And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed."*

Let us pray to the Triune invisible God who has covenanted to fight and defeat our enemies, the ancient foes of humankind and the universe, and to bring in his peace to the world. ■

### **The Season of Eastertide: Our Eyes Are on You, Lord**

*2 Chron. 20.12 - O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.*

### **Biblical Principle of the Month**

During this Eastertide season, we celebrate the victory of the risen Lord and Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. Having defeated our foes and honored his Father, he now sits exalted and glorified at the Father's right hand. Soon he will return in glory to establish the reign of God in the earth and destroy the enemies of God. Because of him, we need no longer be driven through the torment of fear and loss; the battle is the Lord's and we need only to depend on him. Armed with this faith, let us ask God for a new move of the Spirit in the cities of the world. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!



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*1 Cor. 15.56-58 - The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [58] Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*

*1 John 5.4-5 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. [5] Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*



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