

Our Eyes Are Upon You!
(2 Chron. 20:12).

Intro: Among Judah's greatest kings was King Jehoshaphat. The chronicler tells us the moving story of a time of great crisis in his kingdom. What we learn from his example will help us too in times of crisis.

Crisis in the Time of Jehoshaphat

A vast army was invading Israel

Now it came about after this that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat.

(2 Chronicles 20:1)

There was no time to prepare

Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, out of Aram and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar (that is Engedi)." (2 Chronicles 20:2)

Jehoshaphat was fearful and called upon the nation to join together for a prayer meeting accompanied by fasting. Jehoshaphat's prayer showed insight into the:

Power and sovereignty of God

O Lord, the God of our fathers, art Thou not God in the heavens? And art Thou not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Thy hand so that no one can stand against Thee. (2 Chronicles 20:6)

Purposes of God

Didst Thou not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Thy people Israel, and give it to the descendants of Abraham Thy friend forever? And they lived in it, and have built Thee a sanctuary there for Thy name, saying (2 Chronicles 20:7-8)

Promises of God

Should evil come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before Thee (for Thy name is in this house) and cry to Thee in our distress, and Thou wilt hear and deliver us.' (2 Chronicles 20:9)

Providence of God

And now behold, the sons of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom Thou didst not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (they turned aside from them and did not destroy them), behold how they are rewarding us, by coming to drive us out from Thy possession which Thou hast given us as an inheritance. O our God, wilt Thou not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on Thee." (2 Chronicles 20:10-12)

God gave the answer they needed

Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed

because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. 'Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel. 'You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the Lord is with you.' (2 Chronicles 20:15-17)

Jehoshaphat's example can teach us what to do during:

Crisis in our time.

In times of crisis...

We often find ourselves feeling clueless. We may not know what to do or even what to pray for; but God gives this assuring promise in times of crisis:

And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (Rom. 8:26-27)

What a great promise this is! Even when we don't know what to do, the Holy Spirit conveys in intercession to the Father what we need. His teaching ministry in us also works through us to bring about what we need.

We need to put our eyes squarely upon the Lord and like Jehoshaphat trust in his power, purposes, promises, and providence.

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:26-28)

Contextually it appears that Paul is discussing how God responds to our needs in times of suffering and crisis. What a blessing to know that God causes all things to work together for the good of His people.

The Lord will give an answer.

That answer came to Israel by a random prophecy by the Holy Spirit. God no longer uses such acts of prophesy; but He still promises to provide the wisdom we need.

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)

In order to attain wisdom there are three things we need to do:

Seek His will in Scripture.

Watch for an act of providence.

Confirm our interpretations with wise people.

And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. (1 John 5:14-15)

If only we would in our time of need do as Jehoshaphat: “We don’t know what to do, but our eyes are on you!”

Conclusion: One thing every person needs to see is the crisis he finds himself in because of his sin against the Lord. We need to humble ourselves before the Lord and seek him and say, “Lord, we don’t know what to do, but our eyes are upon you!” In His power He has stated His purpose and provided an answer to the most important question we’ll ever ask, “What must I do to be saved?”

Put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

Repent of your sins

Upon confession of your faith, be baptized in His name.