

# Prayer As A Weapon In Spiritual Warfare

## Jehoshaphat's Prayer

**2 Chronicles 20:1-30 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup>After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. <sup>2</sup>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). <sup>3</sup>Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. <sup>4</sup>And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

<sup>5</sup>And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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? <sup>8</sup>And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, <sup>9</sup>'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.'<sup>10</sup>And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy—<sup>11</sup>behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. <sup>12</sup>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.**"

<sup>13</sup>Meanwhile all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

<sup>14</sup>And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. <sup>15</sup>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.**

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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."

<sup>18</sup>Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshipping the Lord. <sup>19</sup>And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

<sup>20</sup>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."**

<sup>21</sup>And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say,

"Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever."

<sup>22</sup>And when they began to sing and praise, **the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed.** <sup>23</sup>For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction,<sup>£</sup> and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

<sup>24</sup>When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, **they looked toward the horde, and behold, there<sup>£</sup> were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped.** <sup>25</sup>When Jehoshaphat

and his people came to take their spoil, they found among them, in great numbers, goods, clothing, and precious things, which they took for themselves until they could carry no more. They were three days in taking the spoil, it was so much. <sup>26</sup>On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, <sup>£</sup>for there they blessed the Lord. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Beracah to this day. <sup>27</sup>Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the Lord had made them rejoice over their enemies. <sup>28</sup>They came to Jerusalem with harps and lyres and trumpets, to the house of the Lord. <sup>29</sup>And the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. <sup>30</sup>**So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.**

## **Spiritual Warfare: *God Is In Control Of An Unseen Reality***

**Ephesians 6:10-20 ( ESV )** <sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup>and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup>and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup>**praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.** To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup>and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

**Colossians 2:15 ( NKJV )** <sup>15</sup>Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

**Ephesians 1:20-23 ( ESV )** <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Ephesians 3:10-11 ( NKJV )** <sup>10</sup>to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, <sup>11</sup>according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

### ***Truth vs. Lies***

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4 ( ESV )** <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**2 Corinthians 11:3 ( ESV )** <sup>3</sup>But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

**Ephesians 2:1-3 ( ESV )** <sup>1</sup>And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

**Acts 26:17-18 ( ESV )** <sup>17</sup>delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you <sup>18</sup>to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

### ***The Battle Rages On***

**1 Peter 5:8 ( ESV )** <sup>8</sup>Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

**1 Timothy 4:1-3 ( NKJV )** <sup>1</sup>Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup>speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, <sup>3</sup>forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

### **Prayer: Our Access to Spiritual Victory in Christ**

**1 Peter 5:6-11 ( ESV )** <sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup>casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**Daniel 10:12-14 ( ESV )** <sup>12</sup>Then he said to me, “Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup>The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, <sup>14</sup>and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.”

**James 4:6-10 ( ESV )** <sup>6</sup>But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, <sup>7</sup>“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.