

Sermon Title: **"TRUSTING IN THE LORD'S SOVEREIGNTY!"**  
(OUR GOD SAYS: **"TRUST ME!"**)

Sermon Text: **2 Chro. 20: 1-30**

***Introduction:***

**GOOD MORNING TO ALL FBC MEMBERS & ATTENDERS!  
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY! I  
ALSO WELCOME EVERYONE WHO ARE JOINING FOR THE FIRST  
TIME TODAY. FOR MORE UPDATES & NEWS, WE WOULD LIKE YOU  
TO VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR WEBSITE. LET US NOW  
PREPARE OUR HEARTS AS I CALL BRO. PAUL & ANDREW AS THEY  
LEAD IN PRAISING & WORSHIPING THE LORD TOGETHER!**

**AGAIN, I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THOSE JOINING US FOR  
THE FIRST TIME TODAY IN OUR SERVICE. LAST WEEK, WE STARTED  
A NEW SERMON SERIES CALLED **"COMBATTING COVID-19!"**  
**(OVERCOMING THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE TIMES!)**. AS YOU ALL  
KNOW THE COVID-19 CASES IN ALASKA SURPASS THE 100 MARK.  
FROM 20 PLUS LAST WEEK, IT IS NOW 100 PLUS. THIS CONFIRMS  
THE REALITY OF THE FACT THAT THIS COVID CRISIS IS TRUE OR  
SOMETHING SERIOUS. WE HAVE AT THIS TIME AN UNSEEN,  
INSIDIOUS, & DEADLY ENEMY IN OUR MIDST. AND I THINK THE  
GOVERNOR OF NY, ANDREW CUOMO, WHAT RIGHT ON HOW THEY  
ARE ASSESSING THEIR SITUATION RIGHT NOW. IN ONE OF HIS  
INTERVIEWS REGARDING THEIR SITUATION IN HIS STATE, HE  
DESCRIBED IT AS A "WAR" & THEIR HOSPITALS ARE "WAR ZONES".  
In FACT, HE HAD REQUESTED THE PRESIDENT & OTHERS HAD  
ALREADY FOLLOWED HIM, TO USE THE NATIONAL GUARD TO  
COMBAT THIS DISEASE. THIS ONLY TELLS US THE SERIOUSNESS  
OF THIS CRISIS THAT WE ARE FACING TODAY. WE ARE IN A "WAR"!**

**I BELIEVE OUR TEXT TODAY, 2 CHRO. 22, THE STORY OF KING  
JEHO FACING A VAST ARMY ATTACKING HIS LAND, IS VERY MUCH  
RELEVANT TO OUR SITUATION. I KNOW THAT WE HAVE HEARING  
THIS PASSAGE LATELY, PARTICULARLY VERSE 12, BUT TODAY I  
WOULD LIKE TO LOOK DEEPER INTO THE CONTEXT OF THIS  
PASSAGE & SHARE TO YOU WHAT THE LORD HAS SHOWN ME  
THROUGH THIS VERSE & STORY & HOW IT RELATES & APPLIES TO  
WHAT WE ARE FACING TODAY. ACTUALLY I HAVE A SUB-TITLE TO**

THIS MESSAGE AND I THINK IT CAPTURES WHAT THE LORD WANTS TO SAY TO US TODAY AS HIS PEOPLE & CHILDREN. AS WE FACE THIS OVERWHELMING CRISIS CALLED “CIVID-19”, THE LORD IS SAYING TO US – **“MY PEOPLE, MY CHILDREN, LOOK TO ME! PUT YOUR TRUST IN ME!”**

**PLEASE JOIN ME AS WE COME TO THE LORD IN PRAYER...**

A. KING JEHOSHAPHAT **RESOLVES** TO SEEK HELP FROM THE LORD THEIR GOD!

BEFORE I ZERO IN TO OUR MESSAGE TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU THE HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR STORY OR PASSAGE TODAY. IT BEGINS W/ KING JEHOSHAPHAT, A GODLY KING OF JUDAH HEARING A VERY VERY BAD NEWS FROM HIS MEN – A VAST ARMY OF MOABITES & AMMONITES & MEUNITES ARE COMING AGAINST HIM & JUDAH!

TAKE NOTE THAT AFTER HE LEARNED ALL THIS, HE DID THE FOLLOWING. (SEE VERSE 1-12).

- 1) He **determines** to seek the Lord’s help! (v. 3)
- 2) He **declares** a fast throughout Judah! (v.3)
- 3) He **dares** to stand before the Lord & the people! (vv. 5-12)

- He **praises** the Lord’s sovereignty! (v. 6)
- He **proclaims** the Lord’s faithfulness! (vv. 7-9)
- He **presents** to the Lord their present crisis/problem! (vv. 10-11)
- He **pleads** before the Lord for justice & deliverance! (v. 12)

B. THE LORD **RELAYS** HIS ANSWER TO THEIR PRAYERS THROUGH JEHAZIEL!

THEN, IN VERSES 14-23, THE LORD ANSWERED KING JEHO & JUDAH’S PRAYERS.

- 1) The Lord **empowers** Jehaziel to prophesy through His Spirit! (v. 14)
- 2) The Lord **equips** King Jehoshaphat how to face their enemies! (v.15-17)

### 3) The Lord **eliminates** Judah's enemies miraculously! (v. 22)

#### **APPLICATIONS:**

NOW, FROM OUR STORY TODAY, WE LEARN THAT WE CAN **OVERCOME** OUR OVERWHELMING ENEMY OR CRISIS BY **PUTTING** OUR **UNWAVERING TRUST** IN THE **LORD'S SOVEREIGNTY**.

KING JEHOSHAPHAT **REMINDED** US TODAY THAT THE LORD OUR GOD IS **STILL** THE **SOVEREIGN LORD** OF THE UNIVERSE! BY SOVEREIGNTY, WE MEAN GOD'S SUPREME POWER & AUTHORITY OR CONTROL OF ALL THINGS IN THIS WORLD! COVID-19 DID NOT SURPRISE THE SOVEREIGN LORD OF THE UNIVERSE. IT DID NOT ALTER THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE HEAVENLIES. THE LAST TIME I READ MY BIBLE, THE LORD OUR GOD IS STILL SITTING ON HIS THRONE & IS RULING THIS SIN-SICK & TROUBLED WORLD.

*"Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? **You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.**" (v. 6)*

THEREFORE, IN THE FACE OF AN OVERWHELMING ENEMY OR CRISIS, WE ARE TO PUT OUR CONFIDENCE, OUR TRUST, & OUR HOPE IN THE LORD OUR GOD! AGAIN, IN THE WORDS KING JEHO, **"WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO, BUT WE LOOK TO YOU."** (v. 12)

❖ FROM OUR STUDY TODAY, JEHOSHAPHAT & THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH I THINK **DEMONSTRATED** SEVERAL **ATTITUDES & BEHAVIORS** THAT I BELIEVE TEACHES US WHAT IT MEANS TO **"LOOK TO GOD"** OR TO **FULLY TRUST** IN GOD ESP. IN THE FACE OF AN OVERWHELMING ENEMY OR CRISIS!

❖ **WHAT DOES IT MEANS TO "LOOK TO GOD" OR "TRUST IN THE LORD"?**

(1) **CHOOSE** TO LIVE BY **FAITH** IN THE LORD & NOT IN **FEAR**!

AS DEMONSTRATED BY KING JEHO, TO "LOOK TO GOD" OR "TRUST IN THE LORD" IS TO **CHOOSE TO LIVE BY FAITH IN GOD &**

**NOT IN FEAR!** WHEN KING JEHO HEARD THAT A VAST ARMY WAS COMING AGAINST HIM & JUDAH, HE WAS “ALARMED” BUT TAKE NOTE THAT DID NOT STAY IN THAT EMOTINAL STATE OR CONDITION. BUT INSTEAD, WE READ IN VERSE 3 IS THAT HE “RESOLVED TO INQUIRE OF THE LORD.”

*After this, the Moabites and Ammonites, together with some of the Meunites, came to fight against Jehoshaphat. People came and told Jehoshaphat, “**A vast number** from beyond the Dead Sea and from Edom has come to fight against you; they are already in Hazazon-tamar” (that is, En-gedi). **Jehoshaphat was afraid, and he resolved to seek the Lord. Then he proclaimed a fast for all Judah, who gathered to seek the Lord. They even came from all the cities of Judah to seek him.**” (vv. 1-4)*

I THINK THAT TO BE AFRAID OR FEARFUL IS A JUST NATURAL OR NORMAL EMOTION THAT HUMAN BEINGS EXPERIENCE. SOMEBODY ASKED, HOW ABOUT BEING AFRAID OF OUR WIFE, IS THAT NORMAL? I THINK THAT’S NORMAL BUT TO STAY THAT WAY OR LIVE THAT WAY IS NOT. IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS NOT BAD OR SINFUL TO FEEL AFRAID BUT TO “RESOLVE” OR “DECIDE” OR “CHOOSE” TO STAY IN THIS CONDITION OR LIVE THIS WAY IS NOT ONLY **DESTRUCTIVE** TO OUR **HEALTH** BUT ALSO TO OUR **SPIRITUAL WALK** WITH THE LORD.

**THEREFORE, THE PROBLEM IS NOT OUR EMOTION OF FEAR BUT WHAT WE DO WITH IT. IN OTHER WORDS, WE CAN MAKE A DECISION OR CHOICE –WHETHER TO STAY THIS WAY OR LIVE IN FEAR OR CHOOSE TO LIVE BY FAITH BY SEEKING THE LORD’S HELP & INTERVENTIO WHEN FACING AN OVERCOMING ENEMY OR CRISIS IN OUR LIFE!**

**REMEMBER THAT TO A BELIEVER OF THE LORD, THE DEVIL CAN USE OUR “FEAR” AS A MEANS TO DECEIVE US. IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE, FEAR IS FALSE ENTITY APPEARING REAL! IT IS A DECEPTION OF THE ENEMY TO DISRUPT & DETOUR US IN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD.**

NOW, REALIZE THAT FEAR LIKE THE COVID-19 VIRUS IS CONTAGIOUS & DEADLY TO OUR SOUL BECAUSE THIS SPIRIT IS NOT ONLY DECEPTIVE BUT LEADS TO OTHER NEGATIVE & SINFUL BEHAVIOR & ACTIONS. LET ME SHARE SOME MAJOR ONES.

- a) SELF-CENTEREDNESS
- b) RELYING ON OUR OWN FEELINGS OR THE LOGIC OR APPEARANCE OF LIFE!
- c) POOR DECISION MAKING
- d) DISOBEYING THE LORD'S COMMANDS!

#### ILLUSTRATION: "SAUL REMOVAL AS KING!" (1 Samuel 13)

THE CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS KING SAUL. REMEMBER THE STORY OF KING SAUL IN THE OT. HE COULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE BEST KINGS OF ISRAEL & ESTABLISHED HIS KINGDOM FOR A LONG TIME BUT DID NOT. WHEN SAUL MADE WAR WITH THE PHILISTINES AT THAT TIME AND HE SAW THAT THAT THEY WERE OUTNUMBERED BY THEIR VAST ARMY & THAT SOLDIERS WERE SCATTERING BECAUSE OF FEAR, SAUL MADE A COSTLY MISTAKE.

*"What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikdash, I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."* (1 Sam. 13: 7-9)

*Samuel said to Saul, "You have been foolish. You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you. It was at this time that the Lord would have permanently established your reign over Israel, but now your reign will not endure. The Lord has found a man after his own heart, and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over his people, because you have not done what the Lord commanded."*

(1 Sam. 13: 13-14)

BUT THE QUESTION IS – WHY CHOOSE TO LIVE BY FAITH & NOT IN FEAR? BECAUSE ACCORDING TO THE LORD, ALL OUR BATTLES IN LIFE IS NOT OURS, BUT THE LORD'S!"

*“Listen carefully, all Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat. This is what the Lord says: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast number, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.’” (v. 15)*

### **ILLUSTRATION – “DAVID VS. GOLIATH!”**

NOW, THIS STATEMENT WAS FIRST MENTIONED BY ANOTHER SERVANT OF GOD. REMEMBER THE STORY OF DAVID WHEN HE DEFEATED THE GIANT GOLIATH? (1 SAM. 17). GOLIATH CHALLENGED THE ARMY OF ISRAEL TO A CHAMPION’S DUEL OR “WINNER TAKES ALL” FIGHT & NO ONE DARED TO ANSWER HIM NOT EVEN SAUL. BUT WHEN DAVID HEARD IT, HE DARED TO ANSWER GOLIATH’S CHALLENGE. TO CUT THE LONG STORY SHORT. THEY MET IN A DUEL. GOLIATH CARRIED WITH HIM A SWORD, A SPEAR, & A JAVELIN. BUT DAVID CARRIED WITH HIM A SLING & FIVE SMOOTH STONES. WHEN GOLIATH SAW DAVID, THAT HE WAS JUST A YOUNG MAN, GOLIATH MOCKED HIM. BUT LISTEN TO WHAT DAVID SAID:

*David said to the Philistine: “You come against me with a sword, spear, and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord of Armies, the God of the ranks of Israel—you have defied him. Today, the Lord will hand you over to me. Today, I’ll strike you down, remove your head, and give the corpses of the Philistine camp to the birds of the sky and the wild creatures of the earth. Then all the world will know that Israel has a God, and this whole assembly will know that it is not by sword or by spear that the Lord saves, for the battle is the Lord’s. He will hand you over to us.” (1 Sam. 17: 45-47)*

**THEREFORE, THE BELIEVER’S BATTLES IS THE LORD’S BATTLE! THAT MEANS THAT OUR BATTLE WITH COVID-19 IS THE LORD’S BATTLE! SO, LET US CHOOSE TO LIVE BY FAITH IN THE LORD. LET US BELIEVE THAT HE WILL PROTECT US, PROVIDE FOR US, & GUIDE US DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS!**

THE WORDS OF JOHN MAXWELL IS VERY USEFUL IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS. HE SAID THAT **“LIFE IS 10% WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU & 90% HOW YOU REACT TO IT OR HOW YOU RESPOND TO IT.”** TODAY, THE CHOICE IS IN YOUR HANDS - WE CAN EITHER RESPOND TO



THIS OVERWHELMING ENEMY OR CRISIS IN FEAR OR RESPOND IN FAITH IN THE LORD OUR GOD & DO WHAT IS RIGHT BEFORE GOD'S EYES.

AND THIS LEADS US TO OUR SECOND PRINCIPLE...

(2) **OBEY FULLY** THE LORD'S COMMANDS!" (OBEDIENCE)

**THE SECOND PRINCIPLE THAT WE CAN DERIVE FROM OUR STUDY IS OBEDIENCE! WHEN FACE W/ OVERWHELMING ENEMY/CRISIS, TO TRUST IN THE LORD'S SOVEREIGNTY MEANS OBEYING HIS COMMANDS! REMEMBER THAT IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY, THE LORD ORDAINED THAT SOME THINGS ON EARTH CAN ONLY HAPPEN THROUGH HIS PEOPLE'S OBEDIENCE! TAKE NOTE THAT KING JEHOSEPHAT & JUDAH UNDERSTOOD THIS & THEY OBEYED EXACTLY WHAT THE LORD TOLD THEM TO DO AS GIVEN IN VERSES 15-17:**

***"Listen carefully, all Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat. This is what the Lord says: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast number, for the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 Tomorrow, go down against them. You will see them coming up the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley facing the Wilderness of Jeruel. You do not have to fight this battle. Position yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. He is with you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Tomorrow, go out to face them, for the Lord is with you.'"*** (vv. 15-17)

IN VERSES 20ffg, WE KNOW THAT THEY FAITHFULLY FOLLOWED ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE LORD.

***In the morning they got up early and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa. As they were about to go out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe in his prophets, and you will succeed."*** (v. 20)

AGAIN, LET ME REMIND ALL THAT OUR TENDENCY DURING TIME OF CRISIS AS SEEN IN SCRIPTURES & EXPERIENCE IS TO

SHORT CIRCUIT THE LORD'S COMMANDS. WE TEND TO PRACTICE PARTIAL OBEDIENCE OR SELECTIVE OBEDIENCE OR WORST SUBSTITUTION FOR OBEDIENCE. THIS WAS ILLUSTRATED SO CLEARLY BY THE ISRAELITES IN THE OT & A VERY GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS IS AGAIN KING SAUL.

**ILLUSTRATION – “TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE!”**

REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN THEY WERE BATTLING THE AMALAKITES LED BY KING AGAG & THE LORD THROUGH SAMUEL COMMANDED THEM TO TOTALLY ANNIHILATE EVERYTHING THAT REPRESENT THESE WICKED PEOPLE FROM PEOPLE TO ANIMALS. AND KING SAUL, INSTEAD OF FAITHFULLY CARRYING OUT GOD'S WILL, HE PRESERVES KING AGAG AS WELL AS THE CHOICE ANIMALS. AND SO, WHEN SAMUEL CAME, HE HEARD THE BLEEEPING OF SHEEP, AND DECLARED TO SAUL THAT SINCE HE DID NOT OBEY THE LORD'S COMMAND, THE KINGDOM IS GIVEN TO ANOTHER MAN & WE KNOW THAT THIS WAS DAVID. LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF THE LORD,

*“But I did obey the Lord!” Saul answered. “I went on the mission the Lord gave me: I brought back King Agag of Amalek, and I completely destroyed the Amalekites. The troops took sheep, goats, and cattle from the plunder—the best of what was set apart for destruction—to sacrifice to the Lord your God at Gilgal.” Then Samuel said: “Does the Lord take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? **Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams.** For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and defiance is like wickedness and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.” (1 Sam. 15: 20-23)*

BROTHERS & SISTERS, FRIENDS, ARE YOU TRUSTING IN THE LORD DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS? HOW IS THAT DEMONSTRATED IN OUR LIFE TODAY? ARE WE STILL FAITHFUL IN YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS BELIEVERS OF THE LORD AND AS MEMBERS OF HIS LOCAL CHURCH/FELLOWSHIP? ARE STILL READING & PRAYING? ATTENDING YOUR SMALL GROUP ONLINE TO BEING ACCOUNTABLE TO ONE ANOTHER? ARE YOU STILL FAITHFULLY SUPPORTING THE LORD'S CHURCH & HIS WORK



THROUGH FAITHFUL PRAYERS & GIVING YOU FINANCIAL SUPPORT? BAKA NA-VIRUS DIN ANG GIVING NATIN!!! (HEARD ABOUT ANOTHER VIRUS - THE “NOPIRA” VIRUS?)

REMEMBER THAT IN TIMES LIKE THIS, THE TENDENCY OF OUR FLESH EVEN IF WE ARE BELIEVERS IS TO BE “SELF-CENTERED OR SELFISH” & ONLY THINK OF OURSELVES & OUR NEEDS. BUT THE LORD REMINDS US TODAY WHAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO DO DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS. THE FIRST THING TO DO IS – (1) TO FEAR NOT OUR ENEMY/CRISIS BUT TO HAVE FAITH IN OUR GOD! AND THE SECOND IS (2) TO FULFILL THE LORD’S COMMANDS AS REVEALED IN HIS WORD, THE BIBLE. TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT & RESPONSIBLE & PLEASING BEFORE HIM AS BELIEVERS & FOLLOWERS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

(3) **FIGHT** OUR ENEMY W/ OUR GOD-GIVEN **SPIRITUAL WEAPONS!**

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER PRINCIPLE HERE THAT WE DO WHEN WE “LOOK TO GOD” OR “TRUST IN HIM” – WE FIGHT OUR ENEMY OR CRISIS WITH HIS GOD-GIVEN WEAPONS! IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE IN OUR PASSAGE HOW KING JEHO & JUDAH FOUGHT THEIR ENEMIES! INSTEAD OF READING “CUT W/ SWORD” OR “SHOOT W/ ARROWS” OR “THROW A SPEAR OR JAVELIN” OR “PUNCH THEIR ENEMY” OR “WRESTLE w/ THEIR ENEMY”, WHAT WE READ & SEE ARE THE USE OF THESE WORDS AND ACTIONS: “INQUIRE/SEEK THE LORD” “FAST” “STOOD BEFORE THE LORD” “CRY OUT TO THE LORD” “BOW DOWN BEFORE THE LORD” “PRAISE” “SING” & “GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD.”

TAKE NOTE FROM THE STORY THAT THEY WERE TOLD TO FACE & FIGHT THEIR ENEMY BUT THEY DID NOT HAVE TO USE THEIR PHYSICAL WEAPONS TO DO IT.

***“You do not have to fight this battle. Position yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. He is with you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Tomorrow, go out to face them, for the Lord is with you.” (v. 17)***

THE APOSTLE PAUL TAUGHT US IN THE NT TO FIGHT THIS WAY

***“For although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments and every proud thing that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to obey Christ.” (2 Cor. 10:3-5)***

**THE PRINCIPLE IS CLEAR, WE FIGHT OUR ENEMY WITH THE GOD-GIVEN OR SPIRITUAL WEAPONS THAT THE LORD HAS GIVEN US & NOT WITH WORLDY WEAPONS!**

**WHAT ARE THESE DIVINE & SPIRITUAL WEAPONS THAT WE ARE TO USE WHEN FACING AN OVERWHLMING ENEMY OR CRISIS? LET ME GIVE THE MAJOR ONES:**

- (a) THE NAME OF THE LORD! DAVID USED AGAINST THE GIANT GOLIATH!**
- (b) THE ARMOR OF THE LORD INCLUDING PRAYER! THE APOSTLE PAUL EXPLAINS TO US THESE WEAPONS IN EPHESIANS 6.**
- (c) THE POWER OF PRAISE & WORSHIP! THIS WE CLEARLY SAW WAS APPLIED BY KING JEHO IN OUR STORY IN VERSES 21.**

***“After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: ‘Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.’ As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.” (vv. 21-22)***

**HOW ABOUT US? HOW ARE WE FIGHTING OUR ENEMY TODAY? ARE WORSHIPPING OR WORRYING? ARE WE PRAYING & INTERCEDING OR PANICING & HOARDING? ARE WE USING THESE WEAPONS OR DOING NOTHING? DO WE EVER USE THEM IN OUR LIFE? I PRAY THAT YOU DO & IF NOT START USING THEM FOR OUR GOOD!**

**(4) CULTIVATE A THANKFUL/GRATEFUL HEART!**

**FINALLY, RELATED TO NUMBER THREE (3), LET US CULTIVATE A THANKFUL/GRATEFUL HEART!**

*“After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: **‘Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.’**”*

**TAKE NOTE BRETHREN HOW PERVASIVE IS THE ATTITUDE OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING IN THE LIFE OF KING JEHO & THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH. THEY PRAISE THE LORD BEFORE FACING THEIR ENEMY, DURING THEIR BATTLE W/ THEIR ENEMY, & AFTER DEFEATING THEIR ENEMY. IN OTHER WORDS, THEIR SITUATION IS NOT THE DETERMINANT OR REASON FOR BEING GRATEFUL. THEY JUST PRAISE & GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD BECAUSE HE IS WORTHY! VERSES 26-28 I THINK TELLS US HOW THEY CULTIVATE THIS KIND OF THANKFUL HEART – THEY ALWAYS CELEBRATED THE LORD’S VICTORY. OR PUT IT IN ANOTHER WAY, THEY HAVE LEARNED HOW COUNT THEIR BLESSINGS IN ALL SIYUATIONS!**

*“**On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berakah, where they praised the Lord.** This is why it is called the Valley of Berakah to this day. Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the Lord had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies. **They entered Jerusalem and went to the temple of the Lord with harps and lyres and trumpets.**”  
(vv. 26-28)*

*Rejoice always, pray constantly, **give thanks in everything; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.**” (1 Thess. 5: 16-18)*

**❖ THEREFORE, A TRUSTING HEART IS A THANKFUL HEART!**

**BROTHERS & SISTER, FRIENDS, IF I AM TO TAKE A PEEK INTO YOUR HEARTS TODAY, WHAT WILL I SEE? A THANKFUL/GRATEFUL HEART IN SPITE OF THE CRISIS WE ARE FACING OR FEAR & WORRIES & BITTERNESS? ARE YOU COUNTING YOUR BLESSING TODAY & PRAISING GOD FOR THEM? THE TRUTH IS = IT IS HARD TO COUNT YOUR BLESSING WHEN YOU ARE IN A CRISIS! RIGHT? BUT**

**TO A BELIEVER, WHETHER IN CRISIS OR NOT, IF WE LOOK TO THE LORD, IF WE TRUST THE LORD, WE ALWAYS REJOICE IN THE LORD! WE ARE ALWAYS THANKFUL FOR THE LORD FOR HE STILL RULES & IS IN CONTROL. WE KNOW THAT HE IS TAKING CARE OF US! WE STILL BELIEVE ROM. 8: 28 – “ALL THINGS WILL FOR THE GOOD OF GOD’S PEOPLE...THOSE WHO ARE CALLED TO HIS PURPOSE”**

**AGAIN, THE LAST TIME I CHECKED MY BIBLE, THE LORD IS STILL THE LORD OF LORDS & KING OF KINGS! THE LORD OUR GOD IS STILL SITTING AS THE SOVEREIGN RULER OF THIS WORLD & OUR UNIVERSE. THE LORD BLESS YOU!**

**PRAYER:**

**OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, JUST LIKE KING JEHO WE LOOK TO YOU TODAY FOR HELP. MAKE OUR HEARTS THANKFUL & GRATEFUL TODAY IN THE MIDST OF THIS CRISIS. OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE THAT YOU ARE CALLING US TO TRUST YOU. TO CHOOSE TO BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THERE & TAKING CARE OF US IN MYSTERIOUS WAY. EMPOWER US TO FAITHFULLY OBEY EVEN THOUGH IN THESE TIMES, WE TEND TO THINK JUST OF OURSELVES & OUR NEEDS. TEACH US TO BE LOVING & COMPASSIONATE TO OTHERS & TO DO WHAT YOU COMMANDED US TO DO = TO ABOUND WITH GOOD DEEDS & BE ALWAYS READY TO SHARE THE HOPE & THE PEACE THAT WE HAVE IN OUR HEARTS TO OTHERS. THAT IS THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD JESUS.**

**FATHER, MAKE US A GRATEFUL THANKFUL PEOPLE! OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE THE BLESSINGS OF THIS CRISIS IN OUR LIVES – THE FUTILITY & TEMPORARINESS OF THIS LIFE THAT WE HAVE & TO BE THANKFUL THAT WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE BECAUSE OF JESUS’ DEATH & RESURRECTION. THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU & OUR FAMILIES & OTHERS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN THIS LIFE. MAY WE NOT FORGET THESE TRUTHS WHEN THINGS NORMALIZE AGAIN. MAY THIS CRISIS REVIVE US & CAUSE US TO PURSUE YOU & YOUR WILL FOR MY LIFE. FOR THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT WILL TRULY LAST IN THIS WORLD. FATHER, NOW, I PRAY FOR PROTECTION (JEHOVAH EL SHADDAI)... PROVISION (JEHOVAH JIREH)...PEACE (PRINCE OF PEACE)...FOR YOUR PEOPLE. IN JESUS’ NAME! AMEN!**