

# We Seek – God Speaks

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 20: 1-30 (vs. 14-19)  
Date: August 30, 2020

## INTRODUCTION

### COOKIE RECIPE

My mother and I once had this massive fight. It was over what order the ingredients should be put into a chocolate chip recipe. The debate in essence centred around the role of the recipe as a guideline to do something. To change the order – to her – violated the recipe

### SERIES OVERVIEW

In this series of sermons from 2 Chronicles 20 the people of Judah (the southern half of the people of Israel) also feel cheated. There are massive armies from three countries about to invade them. Countries that they were prohibited – by God – to conquer when they entered the promised land years ago. Now they are only a short distance from Jerusalem.

As a result everyone in the kingdom gathered together to pray. Every man, woman and child were gathered at the temple courts. They named the promises of God, they named their problem and they gave their trust - *we don't know what to do but our eyes are on you.*

Today we will continue from verse 14 and read to verse 19.

## GOD SPEAKS

### RECIPE

The cookie recipe had a few essential aspects to it that did make it a great recipe. First one needs to trust the source - was the person who gave the recipe a good cook? Secondly one needs to trust the product - was the food – good food to want to eat? Finally, one needs to trust the process - were the directions clear and able to be followed?

### AUTHORITY

In the text - after Jehoshaphat prays and the people wait a man named Jaheziel stands up and begins to speak. Jaheziel is from the lineage of the priests who are not normally in a prophetic role – but there is some level of authority here and it's easier to trust the source. God doesn't need to use people in complete authority – and it wasn't the first time (or the last) He would communicate this way. But the message was easier to affirm when it did come through a trusted source.

### AUTHENTICATED

After Jaheziel finishes speaking Jehoshaphat doesn't question the message. He immediately moves on to the next step. He authenticates the message – perhaps - because of all the time he had spoken with / heard from God that He knew it was God speaking to the people. He knew God's voice – recognized this message as God's

**ACTION**

The message to the people of Israel – the ingredients if you will – contain three parts.

Firstly - God gives ENCOURAGEMENT – vs. 15a - *do not be afraid or discouraged*. God responds to the fear / frustration of the people. In fact, this is so important that it is repeated in vs. 17. God is giving reassurance to the people.

Secondly - God gives PROMISES - this *battle is not yours but the Lord's*. God is indicating that in this circumstance He will intervene directly for the people of Judah. While they will also have responsibilities in this world – and they are indicated in a moment – the overall picture – and eventually the parts of the picture God Himself will deal with.

In their prayer of humility and helplessness the response from God is an encouragement that reminds all that ultimately it is God whose power is at work. This covenantal relationship of God and His people are encouraging.

Thirdly - God gives DIRECTION as He speaks specifics to the people. God gives specifics about what Judah needs to do. He tells them WHEN (tomorrow), WHERE (go to this place) and WHAT (stand firm and take positions)

**APPLICATION**

In our culture today it's hard enough to admit that something is bigger than us but it's also hard to admit that sometimes we get help. We credit fate or we credit luck and rarely do we recognize God's direct part in our survival in life. But it's clear that God has a vested interest in helping His people. It's clear that God calls us to participate but it's also clear that God's power accomplishes His glorious victories.

**WE SING****UNITY**

The people of Judah came together to pray and now they were together to praise ! They are still gathered together - every man / woman / child / infant wondering what just happened. Perhaps blinking at the recognition that God is still there for them and perhaps stunned that the prayer had been answered .

**UNDERSTANDING**

**KNELT DOWN** - Submissive to God

Upon hearing Jaheziel's voice conclude the message - Jehoshaphat kneels down. There is a holy hush - an awestruck silence. There is surrender of spirit that the God who made them, the God who covenanted with them, the God who had redeemed them – time and time again and the God who had rescued them – time and time again ----- was in the house!

And the people – not just Jehoshaphat – knelt. Honouring the God – their King – with their worth-ship with the recognition that He alone could save

STOOD UP - Shouted to God (loud voice)

Then some priests from the Levite families - the Kohoathites and the Koraites stood up and shouted praises to God. Those worship leaders – lead by the spirit of God were going to proclaim the glory of the Lord – the God of Israel – with a very loud voice!

Quiet reflective reverential worship (music & words) is true BUT so is energetic and boisterous worship (music & words). Israel begins a worship service. Now there are still 3 massive armies out there and God's directions are still a little vague about how this is going to be accomplished BUT it was time to worship. They still aren't sure about what to do but but God was now present in their eyes

We don't know the duration – the text doesn't say – but the next verse (where we'll start next week) talks about early the next morning. Part of me thinks that this went on all night.

## CONCLUSION

### APPLICATION

When God speaks – when God acts - directly in our lives - what is our recognition and what is our response? Are we connected enough to God – like Jehoshaphat – to recognize God? Are we connected enough to God – like Jehoshaphat – to celebrate God?

This God who encourages us in our hard times, this God who promises us in our hard times, this God who directs us in our hard times is the same God we can celebrate in our good times. The God who created us, the God who – through Jesus Christ His Son – redeems us and the God who – through the Holy Spirit – guides us is worthy of our worship and celebration.  
Is worthy of our celebration

**AMEN**