

We Sing – God Saves

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 20: 1-30

Date: September 6, 2020

HOPE – WE SEEK (PRAYER)

PROBLEM

Over the last two weeks we've dissected 2 Chronicles 20 and we remember that the people of Judah had a large army – actually three large armies – about to attack and invade them. They were so close to Jerusalem and there were so many of them that there was only one likely result – Judah's doom.

PRAYER

The people of Judah gathered together in the temple courts. Everyone gathered from every part of Judah – every man, woman, child and infant. They gathered to pray because there was no hope from their own strength to survive this threat.

Jehoshaphat the King began the prayer by identifying God's character. He affirmed God's place to rule and reign over them as the Lord and God of Israel. Jehoshaphat calls upon God's covenantal promises with His people. That if they were ever in trouble then they should gather in the temple of God's presence and call upon Him and He will hear and respond to them.

Jehoshaphat then names the problem before the Lord. That these three armies – that were not destroyed by Israel when they entered the promised land – were not about to destroy Judah. But Jehoshaphat declares that despite their helplessness – their hope remains in God.

HELP – GOD SPEAKS

GOD SPEAKS -

Into this space of fear and faith – God speaks. His first words to them were meant to reassure and encourage - *don't be afraid or discouraged*. These are so important that they are repeated a few verses later.

God reassures them that He knows their predicament and that he also knows the outcome. He declares that the people will not have to bear the burden of this fight. The battle is not yours but the Lord's.

God then gives the people instructions on when to move out, where to go and what to do when they get there. God will fight the battle but the people will still need to take positions, to stand firm and to watch God work for them.

HALLELUJAH – WE SING / GOD SAVES

REWARD

In response to this revelation by God – Jehoshaphat kneels down in a submissive surrender of the full glory of God. He – and all the people – are reminded that despite the dire circumstance that God is still there with them. Regardless of what happens next – it's all good because God's presence remains.

Then the Levite families praise God with a very loud shout. Give God worth-ship – a recognition, a value of the place of the importance of God in their lives. A praise and thanksgiving that might have lasted through the night.

The next day further plans are made. They are reminded of the directions that God gave to them – and then the choir is put at the front of the armed forces leading the nation into battle. The choir – not the army or the artillery – but the singers.

They sing a reminder to the people to give thanks to the Lord for His love endures forever. The NIV translates this as love but other translations see this as an ongoing action. His faithful / steadfast, loyal love will endure forever. They are affirming God's presence before them / with them / within them.

RESULT

As they sang / worshipped, the Lord caused the other armies to attack each other. Mercilessly they wiped each other out. Completely as not one soldier was left standing by the time the choir (and the army) arrived. Israel needed to have some participation- so they wouldn't be passive YET it was all God's work that saved Israel.

In a different context we are reminded of the battle that was won for us by Jesus Christ in conquering sin on our behalf. He did all of the work in our salvation back to God. Our sin separated us from God making the biggest problem we face insurmountable. We have a responsibility to respond in faith BUT God did all the work

The results of God's work was so massive it took the people over three days to recover all the loot. They renamed the place Berakah – meaning Valley of Praise. A name of a place that reminded them of what God did for them - Israel was at peace – vs. 30. But also a reminder of what God gave to them. Trust, faith, obedience and blessings were the fruit for Judah to enjoy.

Then they returned to Jerusalem and the temple. They had started at the temple in prayer of need and praise and now they returned to the temple in praise and prayer.

APPLICATION / CONCLUSION

PROCESS

We seek – God speaks

God's Speaking – We Sing

We Sing – God Saves

God Saves – We Sing