

Fasting Part 9

"1 It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. 2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi. 3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4 And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. 5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, 6 And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee? 7 Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever? 8 And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying, 9 If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help. 10 And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not; 11 Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit. 12 O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee. 13 And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. 14 Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation; 15 And he said, Harken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. 17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you. 18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD. 19 And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high. 20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. 21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. 22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon,

Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. 23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. 24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped. 25 And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much. 26 And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day. 27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies. 28 And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD. 29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel." (2 Chronicles 20:1-29 KJV)

The above event had happened during the reign of Jehoshaphat king of Judah who was a righteous king and did his part to serve the Lord. In what we read we found that King Jehoshaphat and the kingdom of Judah is under threat being attacked by a vast army made of three groups came united against them and who were bigger and mightier than the Kingdom of Judah. *"1 It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. 2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi."* (2 Chronicles 20:1-2 KJV)

As we meditate further on the chosen passage from 2 *Chronicles 20* we can learn certain facts that we can apply in our lives. As believers in God and in our Lord Jesus Christ the passage we read instructs us with good lessons that we can apply even this day in our daily battles against Satan and all its schemes.

1. Faith is required: *"3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4 And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD."* (2 Chronicles 20:3-4 KJV) Now here King Jehoshaphat and the whole kingdom need to face the threat and go to the battle, but they resorted first to come united to the Lord in prayer and in fasting asking the Lord for help. [What we can learn here, as a church that when we face a threat from the devil that will affect the majority of us we need to come first seeking the help of the Lord through prayer and fasting.](#)

When Jehoshaphat heard the news, he called all the people and proclaimed prayer and fasting and people came together seeking help from the Lord. [Problems should not be the reason for you to be weakening in faith. Problems that God would allow to come in your lives His purpose from allowing that is to make you strong in faith. Not to shrink and draw back but to trust in God more. When you face problem by faith use the weapon of prayer and fasting to face it and overcome.](#)

2. Holiness in life and transparency is needed: The Israelites when they went out from Egypt they did not invade the land of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, for the Lord did not allow them to do that, but now those people are invading the land of Judah. Jehoshaphat when faced the problem he was aware with the critics of the situation and what God had given them and what He had instructed them, and Jehoshaphat mentioned all that in his prayer: *“5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, 6 And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee? 7 Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever? 8 And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying, 9 If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help. 10 And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not; 11 Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.”* (2 Chronicles 20:5-11 KJV) All the people who were there heard all these details so that they will know on which basis they will come to the Lord, intercede, and pray and fast to Him to help them to solve the problem. Jehoshaphat was able to do that because he did not do wrong. It is not his fault, but it is his enemy fault. *The same for you, when you have not done wrong it is not your fault that people making troubles against you. As long as you live in holiness and transparency then you don't need to be ashamed of anything as long as everything is pure and clean before God.*

But when you live in sin and hidden agenda and impure things are there, then you will be overtaken by the enemy.

But take heart my friend there is still a way for you; as you repent of your sins then God will work in your behalf, for *“9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9 KJV) *As you pray and fast coming to the Lord for help then you need to repent of your sins and renounce them so God will listen and answer your cry, your prayer and fasting.*

3. “13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13 KJV): *Troubles could be a good way for you to repent, confess your sins and renounce them, then you will find mercy and God shall work for your behalf.*

4. Practice justice: King Jehoshaphat presented to the Lord the case clearly; that they had obeyed Him by doing the right thing and did not invade or take the rights of others, while others they are the one invading their territory and trying to take their rights. Now if you live in obedience to God and live in justice and respect others and give everyone what is due for Him then God will be the one to fight your enemies.

“4 The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.” (Proverbs 29:4 KJV) To practice justice is very important and that shall establish you, but partiality and unfairness God will not be pleased with.

5. Have confidence and trust in the Lord: King Jehoshaphat approached God's throne in confidence. Acknowledging that God is King and the ruler of all nations and everything under His care and power. He also claimed the promises of God and trusted Him, as he said to the Lord what He had promised, *“9 If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.”* (2 Chronicles 20:9 KJV)

The people they came with full trust in the LORD that He can help them to deal with their enemies. In their fasting they expressed to the Lord that they don't have power and strength to deal with the enemy and they don't know what to do. *“12 O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.”* (2 Chronicles 20:12 KJV) They came to the LORD in fasting asking Him the strength, the power and the things they need to do to face those enemies. Indeed the LORD helped them to achieve that. He encouraged them, removed their fears with his prophetic message, instructed them what they needed to do, He fought the battle for them, and gave them huge plunder. *The same for us we need to approach the Lord in confidence and to present to Him our problems and what we want Him to do for us.*

Let us now present to the Lord the group of the enemy that had trouble us. “Our God, will you not judge them? _____ for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.”

6. Unity: *“13 And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.”* (2 Chronicles 20:13 KJV) All the congregation and the family members came to the lord in prayer and fasting, even the children and the little ones, and no one was exempted from fasting. When you have a problem, to solve it unity is important and this what God wants to see in us. Unity in mind and thought and what goes in accord to His Word. *All the family members and the church members need to be united with God, with His will and with his Word so God will work for our behalf.*

7. Coming to the Lord in prayer and fasting and seeking Him brings the assuring message from the Lord: As the people come to the Lord, they receive the assuring message from Him. The Lord inspired one of the Levites, those who committed their lives to God, to speak the message of God. *“14 Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;”* (2 Chronicles 20:14 KJV) When King Jehoshaphat presented the problem to the Lord in His prayers God send His assuring message to His people as we can read here: *“15 And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz;*

and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. 17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.” (2 Chronicles 20:15-17 KJV) As they prayed and fasted the Lord gave to them an assuring message that they don’t need to fight the battle, but they just need to go out and stand firm and see the deliverance of the Lord and how He will fight for them. *In the same way as you come to God, repenting of your sins, in prayer and fasting, seeking His help, you will receive from Him the assurance and the confidence and your hearts and minds be filled with peace, that God shall fight the battle for you and deal with your enemy.*

As we come to the Lord in prayer and in fasting the promise of God assure us and give us peace, *“6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7 KJV)* God will continue to assure us in all our struggles that He is there with us to face our enemies and to fight our battles.

8. Out of the flowing of the heart the mouth speak: King Jehoshaphat was glad to receive the good news and the Levites started to praise the Lord for His assuring message to His people. *“18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD. 19 And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.” (2 Chronicles 20:18-19 KJV)* As we receive the assuring message from the Lord, our faith, trust and our confidence on Him will increase that He is the one to fight our battle and enable us to win and have the victory. This will be translated into awesome worship and praise unto our God. In such circumstances we praise the Lord and we thank Him and we encourage one another to do the following: *“Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.”*

Next morning the people raised up early encouraged, and people were appointed to praise the lord as we read here: *“21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.” (2 Chronicles 20:21 KJV)* As we pray and fast to the Lord in facing troubles, we should go on rejoicing, praising God and trusting Him that He will be the one to settle the matter for us.

9. Have faith in God and in His people who bring to us the message: *“20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.” (2 Chronicles 20:20 KJV)* * *You need to believe in God and you need to believe on the person whom God appointed to send His message.*

* *The leaders of the church who teach and admonish and disciple using the Word of God they are bringing God’s prophetic message of salvation and deliverance, and you*

need to accept the message and that is the way for you to accept God’s provision in your life.

10. “5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6) God fought the battle for Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah in this way as we read here: *“22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. 23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. 24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.” (2 Chronicles 20:22-24 KJV)* *Don’t doubt how God will fight for you. In every battle that you pass through God will be there to fight for you and will do something beyond your imagination, understanding and beyond what you had asked.* God fought the enemy of Jehoshaphat by making ambushes against the invading armies, caused them to fight each other and they got defeated. They prayed and fasted and sang to the Lord and He fought the battle for them. *In the same way, let us trust God fully, as we pray and fast and as we sing with faith and rejoicing we will see the great deliverance of the Lord.*

11. The Battle is God and the victory and the blunders is ours: *“25 And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much. 26 And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day. 27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.” (2 Chronicles 20:25-27 KJV)* Jesus fought the battle for us on Calvary and we have victory and the plunder. * *When an enemy is invading our territory then that is not a trouble but the way to be blessed and collect the plunder from the enemy that is invading us.*

* *We may start our prayer and fasting with pain and burden, but we end up with faith, rejoicing and plunder of blessings and great testimonies of how God fought the battle entirely for us and blessed us.*

12. Give the Lord the praise and testify about His goodness to you: *“28 And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.” (2 Chronicles 20:28 KJV)* God’s great miracle in your life should be the reason for you to be transformed, and reward God His faithfulness toward you by giving thanks to Him, to commit your life to serve Him and to follow Him.

My Dear and Beloved: God’s fear was upon all the Kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. *“29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.” (2 Chronicles 20:29 KJV)* The same God will do for us as we trust

in Him, and we will have the peace, for God will give us rest on every side as we agree to trust in the Lord and pray and fast unto Him.

My Dear and beloved, the Lord will do the same for you. You are not alone for the Lord is with you. Even you are facing big problem and huge force more than what you can bear. God can help you in all that; He will instruct you in what you need to do, He will fight the battle for you and you will have the harvest. Trust Him fully and commit your cause and problem unto Him as you fast and pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life.*

*I confess to you and renounce the following sins _____ .
Forgive me Lord and help me in my life.*

O LORD I put in your hand through prayer and fasting the following situation, _____ . LORD I have no strength to face this big problem, I don't know what to do but my eyes are upon you. Lord you promised that the battle is yours; I fully trust that you will do it for me and save me miraculously from this situation. LORD instruct me of what I need to do, fight the battle for me and deliver me from the hands of my enemies.

Lord answer the prayer and the fasting of our brethren and go before them and solve their problems.

Lord thank you for your Word to us. As a church, as we pray and fast, we trust you that you will go before us and deal with all the obstacles and the enemies that are trying to hinder our progress and our service unto you. Lord we ask you to go before us, fill us with the Holy Spirit, and enable us to continue to evangelize and to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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