

SERMON NOTES:



Nov 16, 2025

JEHOSHAPHAT
1 CHRON. 17-20

Pastor Mick Spann

1. Setting the Scene — A King and His Kingdom

- Jehoshaphat: one of Judah's good kings — followed the example of his father Asa (2 Chr. 17:3–6).
- Sent teachers throughout Judah to instruct in God's Word (2 Chr. 17:7–9).
- His focus: not building bigger armies, but building deeper faith.
- Result: God blessed and strengthened the nation (2 Chr. 17:10–12).

2. The “Fruitcake Moment”

- Jehoshaphat allied with King Ahab of Israel — a man who rejected God (2 Chr. 18).
- Nearly died in battle — learned the hard way that:
- Real security doesn't come from clever alliances, but from trusting the Lord.
- Afterwards, Jehoshaphat reformed the nation again (2 Chr. 19:4–11).
- Told his leaders: “Act with courage, and may the Lord be with those who do well.” (2 Chr. 19:11b)

3. Crisis and Fear

- Suddenly — a triple invasion: Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites (2 Chr. 20:1).
- Jehoshaphat and all Judah were terrified (v.2).
- Even godly people experience fear — it's human.
- But fear doesn't have to control us.

4. The Response of Faith

- Jehoshaphat's reaction: seek God — not panic.
- “Jehoshaphat was terrified and begged the Lord for guidance. He also ordered everyone in Judah to begin fasting.” (2 Chr. 20:3–4)
- Whole community gathered to pray — men, women, and children.
- His prayer: “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You.” (2 Chr. 20:12b)
- A difficult situation became the catalyst for faithful unity.
- When God's people gather to pray — He moves.

5. God Speaks through His Community

- The Spirit came upon Jahaziel, a Levite: “Do not be afraid or discouraged... For the battle is not yours, but God’s.” (2 Chr. 20:15)
- God leads His people through His Spirit and through community.
- This is the Baptist principle of discernment:
 - Not one hero or pope.
 - But a congregation seeking God’s wisdom together.
- Wisdom literature like this isn’t “copy-paste” for our context, but written for our formation — to grow our wisdom and trust.

6. Faith that Walks Forward

- God’s command was not to sit back but to go out: “Tomorrow, march down against them... You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you.” (2 Chr. 20:16–17)
- Faith isn’t doing nothing — it’s walking forward trusting God.
- We act in obedience; God performs the miracle.
- They obeyed — but their formation was unusual!

7. Worship Leads the Way

- Jehoshaphat appointed singers to go ahead of the army: “Give thanks to the Lord; His faithful love endures forever.” (2 Chr. 20:21)
- Their battle formation = worship service.
- Their weapon = praise.
- Their strategy = gratitude.
- As they sang, God fought for them — confusion fell on their enemies (vv. 22–23).
- When Judah arrived, the battle was already won (v.24).

8. Our Church Today

- We may not face Moabites, but we face decisions, fears, and uncertainty.
- How will we respond?
 - Worry first and pray later? Act first and pray later?
 - Or pray first, worship, and trust God to lead as we follow?
- The battle for direction and provision is not ours — it’s God’s.
- Our role:
 - Seek Him in prayer and fasting.
 - Stand firm in faith.
 - With thanksgiving for all he has done.

9. Looking Back — Looking Forward

- Like Judah, we remember God's faithfulness to our church.
- The property story and history of provision show His hand at work.
- Our response: "Give thanks to the Lord; His love endures forever."
- Looking back gives us courage to look forward.
- God is forming us to:
 - Facing uncertainty with worship, not worry.
 - Seeking God together, not alone.
 - Trusting that He is sovereign and works all things for His glory and our good.

10. The Overflowing Victory

- When Judah reached the battlefield: "They found only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped... There was so much plunder it took three days to collect it." (2 Chr. 20:24–25)
- The victory is already His — and the blessing flows through His people.
- So let's take our position: On our knees, together in prayer. With hearts of gratitude and eyes fixed on Jesus.