

CrossRoads Baptist Church  
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II Chronicles 20  
Worship: Passion of God for God #4

## “God’s Spiritual Air Force”

Praising God is an essential tool in the battle of the Christian life. It is God’s Spiritual Air Force. Like our own excellent military knows (as they just demonstrated in Iraq) that the best way to soften up the enemy and prepare the way for the ground troops is to send in the Air Force first.

Let’s look at the text and see:

### I. The Presence of the Enemy - verses 1-3

Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, the southern kingdom of Israel, for about 25 years. He was a righteous king and attempted to bring revival among God’s people. He was doing what was right in the eyes of God but that did not facilitate being without enemies in fact it fostered his enemies.

His two neighboring nations of Moab and Ammon teamed to come against Judah. Its bad enough when one comes against you, but when the enemy teams up to come against you it can be scary. The enemy is enough when he comes on one front, but when he comes from your family and finances, it can be almost overwhelming. When he comes from your brother and your boss, it can be almost devastating.

Verse three indicates that he feared. He had an army of almost a million men but the combined efforts of his neighbors caused him fear.

But instead of Jehoshaphat mustering the military he called for a prayer meeting. Instead of calling for a fight he called for a fast. Instead of acting out of panic he acted out of prayer.

When you situations begin to overwhelm you then there is only one thing to do, get a new view of God. That’s what they do.

### II. The Preeminence of our God - verses 4-12

In the face of their enemy, Jehoshaphat begins to rehearse the greatness of their God. May be he was asking what the Lord asked Abraham in Genesis 18:14 “Is anything too hard for the Lord?”

The only thing circumstance too hard for God is the one in your mind. When we forget how great our God then we become discouraged and fearful in the face of our enemy. So, enlarge your vision of God. Your problem will not get smaller but your solution will.

Remind yourself that our God

A. He is the God of power - verse 6

God is completely sovereign. He is omnipotent – all powerful. He is omniscient – all knowing. “All authority and power has been given to me both in Heaven and earth.” Matthew 28: 18

B. He is the God of purpose - verses 7-8, 10-11

He had plans and purposes for His people by bringing them to where they were. Those plans and purposes were not finished and this was not going to be the end of them.

“He that has begun a good work in you complete it ...” Philippians 1: 6

C. He is the God of promise - verse 9

God promised Solomon when he built the Temple that He would hear the prayers that went up from that place. So, Jehoshaphat claims the promise of God.

D. He is the God of protection - verse 12

We are trusting only in your protection God. We confess we don’t know what to do but we are trusting in you. What a wonderful place to be.

God did answer through an unlikely servant named Jahaziel that indeed the “battle is not yours, but God’s.” Words of assurance and confidence were given to God’s people, not because they were mighty but because their God was mighty.

### III. The Position of Praise – verses 17-23

In verse 17 God told them something very interesting. He said “position yourselves.” In order to win this battle, they must be in the right position.

What were these positions? Two are mentioned: one is they bowed their heads to the ground to worship and then they stood up to praise God. Here we see the combination of worship and praise.

Worship is the inner acknowledgement of who God is in your life and praise flows out of that relationship.

The praise was with their voices and it was loud and high.

But the initial reaction to a fresh vision of God was worship and praise. Somebody must have gotten up from their bowing singing

“Then sings my soul, my Saviour, God to thee,  
How great thou art. How great thou art.” Followed by, let’s go and get them.

And the people of God go to war with the singers and the musicians leading in way. God’s spiritual air force.

And then God causes the enemy to become confused and be defeated. Judah won without ever picking up a physical weapon because they had used their spiritual weapons effectively.

This is the same scenario that Joshua used in defeating Jericho. Six days the people walked around the walls of Jericho and on the seventh day they walked around seven times and on the last trip around, they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted and the walls came down.

### IV. The Place of Remembrance - verses 24-30

This was so significant that they wanted to remember this place for generations to come so they named it the Valley of Berachah.

This place of remembrance was to be an ongoing encouragement and edification of the people. It was a place

- To celebrate what God had done in demonstrating His power and promise
- To remind the enemy of their utter defeat and how that God turned what the enemy meant to destroy you as a means to bless you
- To enjoy the spoils of victory
- To remember the people we have become because of this experience
- Of renewed strength and increased faith.

Evan Roberts was the leader of the great Welsh revival. At one point his health was failing and his critics were railing on at him. Evan Roberts was facing an enemy of doubt. After a few weeks of rest he wrote some of his friends these words:

The mountains are high - my hope higher;  
The mountains are strong - my faith stronger;  
The mountains will depart - my God, never.

Whatever you are facing, get a fresh view of God that will result in a fresh experience of worship and verbal praise and then you will discover that God will fight for you and you will never lose a battle.