



Jehoshaphat

Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. –2nd Chronicles 20:3-4

Long before the Enlightenment developed modern theories of governance—before our founding fathers followed Isaiah 33:22 to develop the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of government—God’s people looked to the LORD and their religious leaders to govern them. The LORD gave them their laws, anointed their kings, and judged right from wrong in real time events. In short, the LORD was judge.

An Israeli judge or “shaphat,” like Gideon, Jephthah, Samuel, and even Sampson, carried out all three functions of government. Essential to a judge’s job as Jehovah’s earthly representative was leading in battle and delivering Israel from oppressors. “Jehoshaphat” means “the LORD is Judge,” and 2nd Chronicles 20 is a great read that portrays what the term “the LORD is Judge” was meant to look like.

Like today, enemies of LORD are enemies of the LORD’s people. A group of enemy nations gathered for war against Israel. So being afraid, Jehoshaphat set his face to seek the LORD, proclaimed a fast, and assembled all the cities of Judah to lead them in prayer (20:3-4). His prayer ...

- Acknowledged that the LORD is God in heaven and over all the nations (v. 6);
- Recalled how God drove out the inhabitants of Canaan, and gave Israel the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (v. 7);
- Identified Israel’s Temple as a sanctuary for the Lord’s name (v. 8);
- Called on God to deliver them, in keeping with the covenant He made with with them. *Your name is in this house ... and you will hear and save* (v. 9);
- Identified the threat that the surrounding nations posed against God’s people Judah (vv. 10-11);
- Called on God to judge the nations who opposed Him and His people. *Will you not execute judgment on them* (v. 12)?

Jehoshaphat admitted that Judah was utterly unable to defeat this massive enemy threat and looked to God as their only hope for deliverance. God’s resounding answer reassured the king and the people. *Thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God’s* (v. 15b).

Normally, the next scene would be of soldiers confidently arming for battle. God typically uses His people to do His work and defeat His enemies, like He did with David and Goliath. But not this time. This time, when Israel set off to meet the enemy, *they began to sing and praise*.

Then God turned their enemies against each other. *The LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another* (vv. 21-23).

All that was left for Israel to do was collect the spoils. Then they gathered together as a nation in the Valley of Beracah (“Blessing”) and praised the LORD. *And the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel* (20:29).

The Lord, the Rock of Ages, ruled in Old and New Testament times, and He still rules today. He saved back then and He saves now. He rules over nations and in human hearts of people in high and low positions. *For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us* (Isaiah 33:22).

To the praise of His glory

Continued Daily Bible Reading

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Bible in 1 Year | 2 nd Chronicles 34-36 | John 1-3 | John 4-6 | John 7-9 | John 10-12 | John 13-15 | John 16-18 |
| Year 1 | Job 11 | Job 12 | Job 13 | Job 14 | Job 15 | Job 16 | Job 17 |
| Year 2 | Isaiah 10 | Isaiah 11 | Isaiah 12 | Isaiah 13 | Isaiah 14 | Isaiah 15 | Isaiah 16 |
| Year 3 | Ezekiel 19 | Ezekiel 20 | Ezekiel 21 | Ezekiel 22 | Ezekiel 23 | Ezekiel 24 | Ezekiel 25 |

Daily Prayer

Like ancient Israel, we face an overwhelming enemy. Forces are actively at work to undermine the Christian faith in the United States and turn our society against Christ. The administrative state is usurping control of our government from our elected representatives. Billionaires are paying millions to undermine our elections, place people into office who allow crime to run rampant, and pass laws that run in direct opposition to God’s laws—transsexuality, homosexuality, abortion, and more. The voice of the Church is being shut down in the public square.

But the battle belongs to the Lord and the Christian’s first obligation is to pray in faith, believing that God is mighty to save. He is entirely in control of world events, and He’s actively present among His people.

Sunday (Church): Pray that the ministry of God’s Word will bring deep conviction to us as believers, leading to self-examination and repentance from our own personal sin.

Monday (Home and Family): Jesus Christ rose from the dead and spread the Christian faith across the world and led you to faith in Him. Identify one part of your life where you need Him to give you victory and ask for His victory in that area.

Tuesday (Job/School): Ask God to help you let everyone at work know that you follow Christ. Then pray for His prompting, guidance, and boldness to let them know the difference He makes in your life.

Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community): Pray for neighborly connections with those who live around you that can grow into real friendships.

Thursday (Our Nation): Christians need power, wisdom, and guidance to bring down strongholds of sin and unbelief in our country. Pray for renewed faith in who God is and what He can do.

Friday (The World): Pray for Northpoint’s impact on the world through our missionary outreach, “so the whole world knows the Redeemer has come and He dwells in the presence of His people.”

Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing): Christian praise defies the darkness today as much as it did in Jehoshaphat’s day. *You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame* (Psalm 22:3-5).

Prayer for Our Leaders

Pray for an increase in faith at Northpoint. Pray that our leaders will equip us to face the challenges that lie ahead.

- 1. Our Pastors and Directors:** Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Tamene Menna, Terilyn Brown, Steve Dahlgren, Amber McEwen, and Tyler Van Horssen.
- 2. Our Lay Elders:** Woody Armstrong, Steve Flood, Craig Hawkins, Perry Schaefer, and Vinoj Zechariah.
- 3. Our Church Staff:** Analiese Alfonzie, Michele Balga, Bob Brown, John Cordill, Noah Gauderman, Carolee Jefferson, Cade MacRitchie, Sam Nguyen, Lauren Sanner, Corie Saunders, Dani Tiqui, Micah Valdez, Christina Vasquez, and Holli Worthington.