

## OUR EYES ARE UPON YOU, LORD!

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***“Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”***

*Mark 6:31*

Find a quiet place to be by yourself and rest in Jesus. Offer Him your heart in prayer by reading and personalizing Psalm 139:23-24. Ask God to search you as only He can. Rest in the fact that He knows and loves you. Trust Him to test you and reveal your anxious thoughts. Allow Him to open your eyes to all that He wants you to see today, and follow Him as He leads you in the way everlasting – the way that will bring you closer to Him.

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Jehoshaphat, king of Judah for twenty-five years, chose to walk in the way of the Lord throughout his early years as king. He set his heart on seeking God and turned those who went astray back to the Lord. He encouraged others to serve faithfully and wholeheartedly out of respect for God, and God blessed Jehoshaphat for his obedience.

As Jehoshaphat was doing his part to restore his community, he got some alarming news. What was that news found in 2Chronicles 20:1-2? \_\_\_\_\_

What two things did Jehoshaphat do in response to this news according to 2Chronicles 20:3? \_\_\_\_\_

Jehoshaphat learns that a vast army is coming against him, and he responds with prayer and fasting. What tends to be your initial response when you receive bad news?

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Write out Jehoshaphat’s advice concerning the handling of crisis situations as found in 2Chronicles 18:4: \_\_\_\_\_

If your first response to a crisis is something other than seeking God’s perspective, how might things differ if you resolved to inquire of the Lord first? \_\_\_\_\_

Jehoshaphat models some powerful New Testament truths found in Matthew 6:25-34. What are they, and how can you apply them personally? \_\_\_\_\_

Jehoshaphat and his people fasted from food while they sought God’s help, but there are other types of fasts, as well. Fasting from worry, fear and negativity are just a few examples. Ask God now if there is anything He wants you to abstain from. Write your commitment to Him here as you “declare a holy fast” (Joel 2:15): \_\_\_\_\_

Jehoshaphat next gathers his community for corporate prayer. Read 2Chronicles 20:6-12. How do his words turn your eyes upon the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

This powerful prayer begins with praise (verse 6). Jehoshaphat praises God just for being God; something we can still do regardless of our circumstances. He then continues to remember all that God has done for His people already (verse 7), another act of worship.

We, too, can praise God for who He is and for what He has done. Take a moment to recall how God has blessed you and thank Him for that now: \_\_\_\_\_

Re-read 2Chronicles 20:9. As we cry out to God in our distress, what two things will He do in response? \_\_\_\_\_

God hears you. How does 1John 5:14 confirm this? \_\_\_\_\_

How can we test if we are praying “according to God’s will” based on Romans 12:1-2?  
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Are you “conforming to the pattern of this world” in any area of your thinking? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, are you ready to let God “transform you by the renewing of your mind”? \_\_\_\_\_

How does God wash away our worldly mindsets and cleanse us according to Ephesians 5:26? \_\_\_\_\_

Our old thought patterns are washed away as we allow Christ to fill us up with the truth of His Word; the Bible. Are you arming yourself daily by spending time with God in His Word? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, how could you include reading the Bible in your daily schedule? \_\_\_\_\_

God strengthens us as we read and apply His Word to our lives. Reading the Bible each day allows God the opportunity to make a daily deposit of faith into our hearts, so that if calamity comes upon us, we – like Jehoshaphat – will know to call on the Name of the Lord. How does Proverbs 18:10 describe the Name of the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

Even when we are at our weakest we can run to God, our Strong Tower, and experience His supernatural peace and safety. Jehoshaphat’s prayer depicts this as he states, “we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You” (2Chronicles 20:12). Jehoshaphat needed a miracle, and he trusted God to supply it. Are you in need of a miracle at this time? \_\_\_\_\_

How are we to present our requests to God and what will be the outcome of such behavior according to Philippians 4:4-7? \_\_\_\_\_

Not only will we be blessed with the peace of God while we wait for our miracle; others will, as well. Who listened to Jehoshaphat’s prayer according to 2Chronicles 20:13?  
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How do you think their faith was strengthened by the prayer of their leader? \_\_\_\_\_

How might have Jehoshaphat's community reacted if he had panicked instead of prayed?  
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Like Jehoshaphat, you have a circle of influence. Who is watching you, and how might God be using your circumstances to draw others to Him? \_\_\_\_\_

Record God's words in 2Chronicles 20:15: \_\_\_\_\_

How does knowing that the battle belongs to God encourage you? \_\_\_\_\_

God gives Jehoshaphat's army their marching orders in verses 16 & 17, and the people respond with worship (see verses 18 & 19). What is Jehoshaphat's reminder to the people as they set out in verse 20? \_\_\_\_\_

What is faith according to Hebrews 11:1? \_\_\_\_\_

Jehoshaphat could not see the future, but he was certain that God was in control of it. He hoped for victory, and was sure that God would provide it through His own strength. Jehoshaphat stood firm in his faith, giving him the courage to take up his position, stand his ground and see the deliverance the Lord was about to bring (2Chronicles 20:17).

What was Jehoshaphat's next move according to 2Chronicles 20:21? \_\_\_\_\_

Rather than rush the battlefield, the people penetrate the heavens with unified praise. They praise God for who He is, praise Him for what He has done, and thank Him in advance for what He was about to do. They didn't know what their miracle would look like, but they had enough faith to know that it was on its way. Their song is most likely recorded in Psalms 136. Listen to it as you read its words and let it strengthen your faith.

What did the Lord do as the people began to sing His praises according to 2Chronicles 20:22? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to the enemy in verses 22-23? \_\_\_\_\_

The enemy was defeated and Jehoshaphat's army didn't even have to raise a finger; all they had to raise was their voices in praise! How is this victory an echo of Exodus 14:13-14? \_\_\_\_\_

Go to Psalms 46:10 and record God's powerful promise: \_\_\_\_\_

When we are surrounded by the stresses of today, we do not need to resort to worry or doubt. God's Word tells us to "be still and know" that God is God, and God is in control. God's saving grace will prevail, and we will be blessed in the process. How was Jehoshaphat's community blessed in 2Chronicles 20:25? \_\_\_\_\_

When we choose to follow Christ we will be blessed with treasure beyond belief, as well. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Jesus; it is only in Him that we may have the full riches of complete understanding (see Colossians 2:2-3). Isn't that what we're after? Not just earthly treasure, but treasure in Heaven? How can we store up such heavenly treasure, according to Matthew 6:19-21? \_\_\_\_\_

We've got to keep our eyes on Jesus, and we've got to keep assembling in the Valley of Beracah, or "The Valley of Praise" (see 2Chronicles 20:26). Singing God's praises before, during, and after our day-to-day battles will scatter our enemies, strengthen our faith and let everyone listening know that the Lord has given us cause to rejoice (v. 27).

How did Jehoshaphat's neighbors respond when they heard how the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel according to 2Chronicles 20:29? \_\_\_\_\_

How is "the fear of the Lord" defined in Proverbs 1:7? \_\_\_\_\_

"Fearing the Lord" describes a level of respect and loving reverence for God that includes submission to His lordship as well as the commands of His Word. Godly role models fear the Lord and live life in such a way that they walk that out in front of others. Who has walked out this *fear of the Lord* in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Proverbs 31:30-31. Thank God for the mentors He has brought into your life and ask Him to show you some way to bless them (*for example: a phone call, email, card in the mail, a cup of coffee, etc.*). A little encouragement can go a long way!

Our story ends with 2Chronicles 20:30. Read the verse and describe the ultimate blessings that God brought to Jehoshaphat and his people: \_\_\_\_\_

Obedience to God not only brings victory, it brings peaceful rest. Hallelujah! Write out God's promise of Isaiah 26:3 here: \_\_\_\_\_

God gives perfect peace to those whose eyes are ever on Him. How will you keep your focus on Christ and not your circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 6:10-18 prepares us for this battle. Read this Scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to outfit you in the "Armor of God". Write out your prayer of commitment and your praises of thanksgiving in the space that follows:

Now "*stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near*" (Luke 21:28). Offer Jesus your song and then watch God work in the midst of your situation. Look up in faith, hope and love. *Trust God and look up!*