

Give Thanks To The Lord

2 Chronicles 20:1-30

Key Verse 20:21

2 Chronicles 20:21

“After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: ‘Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.’”

Thanksgiving



- Four Turkey dinners
- Friends and family
- Joint Worship Service

10 Thanksgiving topics

Part I: Don't Panic...Pray And Find God's Direction Instead

(1-4)

King Jehoshaphat



- the great-great-great-great grandson of King David
- Reigned 853-848 BC
- Stood up as a spiritual leader

Resolved To Pray and Fast



- Make a decision
- May not make sense
- The best strategy from God's point of view

The people's response



They listened to the King

- Together they sought the Lord for help
- They gathered from all the towns

What am I going to do?



Part II Jehoshaphat's Prayer

(5-13)

First, He Reflected On God's Character.

- Verse 6.
- Jehoshaphat stood, *“and said: ‘LORD, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.’”*

Second, He Remembered God's Promises

- *“Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?”*

Third, He Claimed God's Promise To Hear Prayer.

- *“They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, 9 ‘If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.’”*

2 Chronicles 7:14–16

- *“...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **15** Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. **16** I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.”*

Fourth, He Appealed To God's Sense Of Justice.

- *“But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. 11 See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. 12 Our God, will you not judge them?...”*

Fifth, His Prayer Was Offered In Humility And Brokenness.

- Verse 12b, “...*For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.*”

The Families Were United In Prayer.



- verse 13, *“All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD.”*
- Unity
- Fathers led
- Children participated

Part III: Stand Firm And See God's Deliverance

(14-17)

First, Do Not Be Afraid Or Discouraged.

- Verse 15b says, “... *This is what the LORD says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army...’*”

Know That The Battle Is God's.

- Verse 15c, “...*For the battle is not yours, but God's.*”

Confront Your Enemies

- Verse 16, “*Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel.*”

Take Position & Stand Firm



- Verse 17a, “*You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you,*”

Who Is The Lord?

- Verse 6,
- “LORD, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.”

**Part IV: Give Thanks And
Praise to God...Even Before
The Battle**

(18-24)

They Worshipped



1 John 5:14–15

*“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. **15** And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”*

His Love Endures Forever



- Verse 21.
“...appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: ‘Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.’”

God Ambushes



Part V: The Fruit Of “Standing Firm” Faith

(25-30)

A Plunder Wagon



Take Thanks to Completion



The Peace of God Is God's Gift

- Matthew 11:28-30, *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

In The Context Of This Passage

Jesus' Yoke is...

- Prayer and fasting,
- Confronting the things that assail our hearts
- Focusing on God's holiness and love
- Trusting God
- Standing firm in our faith.
- Bearing the blessing of God with thanks

Let's read our key verse together,
verse 21,

*“After consulting the people,
Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing
to the LORD and to praise him for the
splendor of his holiness as they went
out at the head of the army, saying:
‘Give thanks to the LORD, for his love
endures forever.’”*