

# ***How to Handle a Crisis***

“ Now these things happened to them [Israel] as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 1 Cor.10:11 (NASB) ”

In our lifetime all of us have to handle crises - events which seem to overtake us and often cause great trauma. The account in 2 Chronicles 20 is a great example of how to handle a crisis.

## **Jehoshaphat faced the problem**

“Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, ‘A vast army is coming against you...’” verse 2.

## **His initial reaction**

“And Jehoshaphat was afraid...” v.3 (NASB).

## **He inquired of the Lord**

“...Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord” verse 3 (see Hebrews 4:16).

## **He called the nation to prayer**

“...and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him” verses 3-4.

## **He proclaimed Who God is**

“...‘O Lord, God of our fathers, 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’” verse 6 (1 John 4:4).

## **He remembered past victories**

“O 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?” verse 7.

## **He declared dependency on God**

“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 upon you**” v.12 (2 Corinthians 9:8)

## **God gave directions**

“Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel... ‘Listen, King Jehoshaphat...This is what the Lord says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For **the battle is not yours, but God’s**...You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you...’” verses 15-17.

## **The people worshipped the Lord**

“Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord...and praised the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice” verses 18-19.

## **Jehoshaphat reminded the people**

“Early in the morning...As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, ‘Listen to me...Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful’” verse 20.

## **God’s ways are not man’s ways**

“...Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendour of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army...” verse 21 (Psalm 103:7).

## **God set ambushments (2 Cor.2:14).**

“As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the [enemy] who were invading Judah, and they were defeated...they helped to destroy one another” verses 22-2.

**Every crisis in life will attract the miraculous intervention of God and set new directions for your future. The whole of Heaven is behind you.**