

[14] *Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel... [15] and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat, this says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. ... [17] You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the LORD is with you.'"*

[2 Chronicles 20:14-15,17]

We need to begin Today's Thought by looking at the context of 2 Chronicles 20:14-15,17 which begins in 2 Chronicles 20:1. Here we learn that the "battle" came about when enemy armies "came to make war against Jehoshaphat". When Jehoshaphat learned this, he "was afraid and turned his attention to SEEK the LORD"! He did this by proclaiming a fast throughout all Judah [2 Chronicles 20:3]. Then "all the cities of Judah gathered together to SEEK help from the LORD" [2 Chronicles 20:4]. Listen to Jehoshaphat's prayer and how He honored the LORD as he stood before the people.

[6] "O LORD, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You. [7] Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before the people Israel, and give it to the descendants of Your friend Abraham forever? [8] And they lived in it and have built You a sanctuary there for Your name, saying, [9] 'Should evil come upon us, the sword, or judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house) and cry to You in our distress, and You will hear and deliver us.'"

Did you hear the three ways Jehoshaphat honored God? He honored the LORD by first confessing the LORD is "RULER over all... kingdoms of the nations"! The second way was by declaring that "POWER and MIGHT are in" LORD'S "hand so that no one can stand against" Him [2 Chronicles 20:6]! The third way was in saying that when trouble came, that they, Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah would stand before the LORD and TRUST the LORD would "HEAR" their prayer and "DELIVER" them [2 Chronicles 20:9]!

To this point we have been considering physical battles in this world. But now let us shift your thinking to the GREATEST BATTLE we all must fight. That is the SPIRITUAL BATTLE for the SALVATION of our SOULS! Please allow me to take from the battle Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah, would not need to fight and apply it to Today's "this says the Lord" and this ULTIMATE BATTLE of SALVATION.

This ULTIMATE BATTLE is not yours, it is "God's". You "do not" need to "fear or be dismayed". You just need to "stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf"! Please understand that God's will must be accomplished. Do you remember Jesus' prayer in the Garden? Jesus prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done" [Matthew 26:42]. God's will sometimes places us in circumstances to bring about a better result. Here it was that the cup could not pass from Jesus so that you could receive deliverance from your sins.

Inspiration teaches you in Isaiah 46:10 that God says, "My PURPOSE will be established, and I will accomplish all My GOOD PLEASURE." It was pleasing to God that Christ endure the Cross to save

you from your sins! As did Jesus, so also must we sometimes endure trials in this life that we may gain the glory of the next life. That is an unending life.

Do you remember Paul's "*thorn in the flesh*" 2 Corinthians 12:7-9? Listen and learn the reason for the thorn. Listen as Paul is moved to explain,

^[7] ... for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, **TO KEEP ME FROM EXALTING MYSELF!** ^[8] Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ^[9] And He has said to me, **"MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, for POWER IS PERFECTED IN WEAKNESS."** Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, **THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY DWELL IN ME.**

Sometimes God says no to our requests. Understand however that He never says no without giving us something else. Here in 2 Corinthians 12:9 that something else was His "**GRACE**"! The "**GRACE**" God gave was the realization that "**POWER IS PERFECTED IN WEAKNESS**". This is why Paul was able to endure the "*thorn*", because as he was moved to say, "*Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY DWELL IN ME.*"

The **GREATEST BATTLE** you must win is the one God through Christ Jesus has **ALREADY WON** for you. God's **GREATEST PURPOSE** and **PLEASURE** is our **SALVATION** in Christ! I believe this is why God has told you today, that *the battle* for deliverance from your sins *is not yours but God's*. You *need not fight in this battle* for Christ Jesus has already won the victory for you. You just need to *stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf* and walk in the **GRACE** given to you!

Lord willing, I hope you will meet me here again tomorrow, that we can seek for the "*This says the LORDS*" that can impact your life and mine.

Now please pray with me as we close Today's Thought.

Father God, I praise and thank You that You have fought for us the battle that we could not win, the battle for our salvation. I now pray for myself and those praying with me today that You teach us that our part in this battle is to stand and see the salvation You have won for us on our behalf. Let us not fear or be dismayed of what our eternity might be. Rather let us trust that You have already won that battle through the Cross of Jesus. Teach us to trust that through Your grace Your power will be perfected in us through our weaknesses, if we obey Your God-breathed Words. This I ask in the power and authority that is in the name of Jesus Your Son. Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** promising in His Word to never leave you or forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8]!

BECAUSE HE HAS WON THE BATTLE I WILL NOT FEAR MY ETERNITY! – tom