

The Battle is the Lord's

2 Chronicles 20:1-30

Stuart W. Bryan

I. The Reality of War (Eph 6:10-13)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

How does corporate worship relate to our war against the kingdom of darkness? Why is worship so central to our life as the people of God? Peter writes in 1 Peter 2:9,

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...

II. The Battle is the Lord's

A. Setting (1-2)

B. Pray Intently (3-13)

Jehoshaphat receives the news and he is understandably frightened. But notice that Jehoshaphat responds to the news not in unbelief but in _____. Jehoshaphat's models a believing response to opposition from the enemies of God. We must *pray* – seek the face of the Lord – *intently* – often including fasting. Notice the content of his prayer:

1. Acknowledges God's place (v. 6)
2. Reminds God of His Past Faithfulness (vv. 7-9)
3. Notifies God of their Need (vv. 10-11)
4. Calls upon God to act (v. 12)

Jehoshaphat knows that the battle is the Lord's. If we are to triumph against God's enemies, then He must grant the victory.

B. Listen Believingly (14-17 cf. 1 Pet 4:1-6)

Second, we must *listen believingly* to God's Word. In our text, God speaks by the Spirit to Jahaziel, one of the Levitical singers. Components of his message:

1. Listen: the battle is the Lord's so don't be _____! (v. 15)
2. Go out against the enemy – don't sit at home! (v. 16-17a)
3. Go out against them and watch _____ work! (v. 17b)

Judah listened *believingly*: they go out against the enemy and they watch God work.

So how does this guide and direct us as the church? Jahaziel's words urge us to step out in faith and do the things God has commanded us to do. *Don't be afraid; trust the Lord; enter the fray.* In short, go to war against the kingdom of darkness. Peter urges us:

Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

C. Worship Joyfully (18-30 cf. Rev 19:11-16)

Worship is the context for all our fathers' actions. Before they *go down* to battle, they worship; as they *go down*, they worship; after they *have gone down*, they worship.

1. Worship as Thanksgiving (18-19)
2. Worship as Warfare (20-24)
3. Worship as Praise (25-30)

We follow our great and glorious King Jesus into battle against the kingdom of darkness.

The Apostle John sees a vision of our Warrior King in Revelation 19:11-16:

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

III. Conclusion