



**Educate
+ Engage**



TRUE
WORSHIPERS:



The worshipper
and the warrior

OVERVIEW

In II Chronicles 20, under the godly leadership of King Jehoshaphat, the people of Judah realized that the battle was not theirs but God's. They didn't have to fight the battle because their worship called upon a heavenly warrior who has never lost a battle.

Scripture Passage

II Chronicles 20:15–18 (ESV)

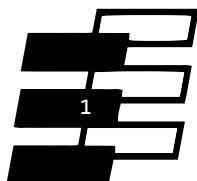
And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you." Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

EDUCATE

The Greatest Warrior in the Bible

Every story needs a hero and the Bible has no shortage of them. If you like epic battle scenes, plot twists, and fierce warriors, the Bible is for you. We love warriors, right? They are usually the heroes of our favorite stories. Heroes are real people who help the audience see themselves in the story (and that's a good thing). The hero is the central character of any story, and often the narrative is constructed or told from their perspective. So many warriors are in the Bible, where do we even begin?

Let's start with David, the shepherd king who slayed Goliath with just a slingshot and a stone. Remember Benaiah, one of David's mighty warriors? He jumped down into a pit with a lion on a snowy day and the lion lost. Remember that time Samson killed a thousand men with a donkey's jawbone? How about Deborah, Gideon, and Joshua, just to name a few more? Great victories of many mighty warriors are documented in the pages of Scripture. Yet the hero in Scripture central to the whole story is Jesus Christ.



God is the greatest warrior found in Scripture. He is the ultimate champion of the universe. He has never lost a battle—and He never will. His record is unblemished; He will never be defeated. His purity and perfection have never wavered. Every other warrior had weaknesses and failures, but God has no weakness and cannot fail. He is the greatest warrior of all time.

Discussion Question: What are some of your favorite warriors in the Bible?

Worship Calls upon the Greatest Warrior

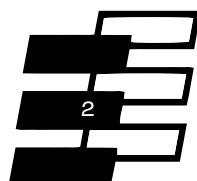
If you were a soldier in Bible times, you could have experienced the comfort and confidence of having a commander who walked closely with God. When David showed up, God showed up with him. In II Chronicles 26 victory did not occur because a man walked onto the battlefield. No, in this instance, the Lord Himself fought the battle on behalf of His people.

God is often referred to in a warrior-like fashion throughout Scripture. This type of verbiage is referring to the mighty God who is sovereign and reigns on the throne. Several times God went to whatever lengths necessary to protect His people. That's why David would put pen to scroll and write sayings like: "Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle" (Psalm 24:8).

Isaiah, the messianic prophet, referred to God as a warrior in Isaiah 42:13 (ESV): "The LORD goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes."

Second Chronicles tells us that the Moabites, Ammonites, and others were advancing against Jehoshaphat to battle. While most kings would have turned to war rituals (sharpening swords, spears, and arrows), Jehoshaphat turned to worship. The Spirit of the Lord came upon a man named Jahaziel, and he said: "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you.' Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshiping the LORD" (II Chronicles 20:15–18, ESV).

Those final three words, "worshiping the LORD," set the tone for what would happen on the battlefield. When the people turned to God in worship, the Lord Himself fought on their behalf.



Lesson 2

Discussion Question: How do you think it felt for Jahaziel to speak with such great anointing in the middle of great adversity?

Worship Confuses the Enemy

The enemy of our soul despises worship. Remembering this one fact will change the trajectory of your life. When we begin to worship, God sends confusion into the minds of our enemies. Job's worship confused Satan. Satan could not understand how Job could still worship God after all he went through. David's worship confused and frustrated his wife Michal, who was mainly worried about David's reputation. Our worship will confuse our enemy when we lift our hands and our voice. We can see this happen in Scripture when the people of Judah began to sing and lift praises to God: "And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another" (II Chronicles 20:22–23, ESV).

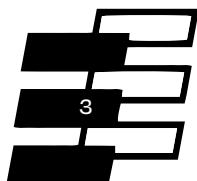
When God's people began to worship, their enemies turned and destroyed one another! If we try to fight our own battles, something like that cannot happen. But when the worshiper has a relationship with the greatest warrior, everything changes. God will send forth His Spirit to do a work we could never do.

Discussion Question: Can you remember a time when praise and worship helped you overcome the enemy?

Worship Carries the Victory

The word *conquer* means to "gain a surpassing victory or to carry away an overwhelming victory." After Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah sang and praised the Lord, they went up on the watchtower.

"When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the horde, and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped. When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found among them, in great numbers, goods, clothing, and precious things, which they took for themselves until they could carry no more. They were three days in taking the spoil, it was so much" (II Chronicles 20:24–25, ESV).



True worshipers do not just win victory; they carry the victory with them after the battle. Jehoshaphat and his people left the battlefield with more than what they had when they arrived. God did not leave any survivors from the enemy. When we allow the Lord to fight our battles, we see total and complete victory. When God fights our battles, He gives us something we can carry with us as a reminder of His might and His power.

Romans 8:37 (ESV)

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Discussion Question: How will you commit yourself to a lifestyle of worship this week?

Closing

Worship calls on the mightiest warrior—God—to fight on our behalf. Worship confuses the mind of the enemy. True worshipers conquer and carry victory with them wherever they go. Don't try to be the hero of the story. Let the one who has never lost a battle fight for you.

ENGAGE

Write down some battles you have been fighting lately and ask yourself if you are trying to fight them on your own, or if you are willing to trust God to fight them for you. Pray for God to fight them, and worship Him because He alone brings total victory.

