

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles

Please read 2 Chronicles Chapter 20

In this chapter news of the approach of a host of enemies comes to Jehoshaphat & all Judah. They are understandably fearful. Isn't this just how we feel in the throes of a biological attack orchestrated, in the shadows, by sociopathic Satanists? What are WE to do? Let's learn from what THEY did!

1. They gathered together *(i) to ask help from the Lord; and (ii) to seek the Lord* (v4). There is nothing more stirring & empowering than to be a part of such a gathering. Why not join with us for prayer on Sunday morning? Presently around 12-15 gather with us each week. But there are around 90 of us on Telegram not including children!
2. Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord... and said: *"O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?"* i.e. the leader of the people rehearsed God's power & sovereignty throughout creation. We are so apt to doubt this truth. It needs to be foremost in our minds & hearts.
3. Jehoshaphat recalled the Exodus which occurred in recent history: *"Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?"* (v7) Even so we need to review how God has rescued His people from imminent disaster (recall Esther & Purim)
4. They recounted the purpose of Solomon in building the Temple in Jerusalem – for just this occasion: *"And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, 'If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'* We are presently in the clutches of Giant Despair, held captive in Doubting Castle. John Bunyan pointed us to the remedy → The Key of Promise. Scripture is full of mighty precious promises. Join with us on Sunday mornings & hear them rehearsed by God's prayer warriors.
5. Jehoshaphat recalls how merciful & kind Israel had been towards these same nations when crossing over into Canaan (v10-11). Likewise, Christ's Church has been salt & light to the darkness of sin-sick humanity. They owe God's people a great deal; yet they now threaten us with death! Therefore, Jehoshaphat invokes God's judgement & justice upon them (v12).
6. Finally, Jehoshaphat acknowledges his own impotence & the inherent weakness of his own fighting men. Happily, Paul explains, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."* Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2Cor 12:9-10)
7. Notice that *'all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord'* (v13). God's help is COVENANTAL. God is simultaneously the One and the Many. His people (many) are His by covenant promise.

What follows this remarkable prayer is victory over their enemies by the power of God (v15). But notice that they still had to put their armour on & ready themselves for war (v17). And notice the primacy of faith-rich praise in the camp. Once again, we lack the backbone of psalm singing in our worship. The psalms are God's own provision of suitable songs of worship. We neglect them at our

peril (see Ps 136 cited here). As well as a great deliverance, the people of God acquired much spoil from their enemies. This foreshadows the kings of the Earth (Ps 2) bringing their treasures to the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:24); it is we, God's people, as co-heirs with Christ who are to inherit the Earth (Matt 5:5).

And it shall come to pass in all the land, says the Lord, that two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, I will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; and each one will say, 'The Lord is my God.' (Zech 13:8-9)

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles – Questions from Ch 20:

- ***Why not gather with us for prayer this Sunday morning to SEEK THE LORD TOGETHER?***
- ***What powerful resources does God have at His disposal? How do you know?***
- ***What was (were) the key(s) of promise Bunyan referenced? How might we lay hold of it/them?***
- ***How is the world indebted to the Christian Church?***
- ***Why is our experience of weakness a potential blessing?***
- ***Are your children/grandchildren aware of what we're facing? Why not bring them to the prayer meeting?***