



LIVING LOGOS
MINISTRIES

The Living Logos

Teaching Newsletter

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Praise Goes First ~ Pastor Trey Dickerson

Many of us are familiar with that great chapter of the Bible - Second Chronicles chapter 20 - where Jehoshaphat and his kingdom experience that awesome victory over their enemies. Well, I believe that this chapter also shows us God's blueprint for victory in our lives even today. And in verse 21 of this chapter, we see one of the pivotal points of this victory.

We are told in verse 21 what King Jehoshaphat's plan was - *"And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: 'Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever.'"*

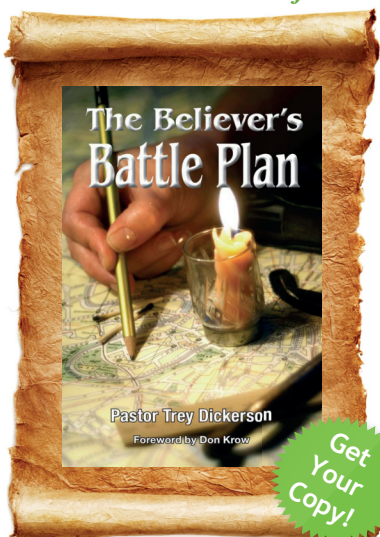
What an unusual battle plan: Sending the praise and worshipers on the front lines before the army!?! This demonstrates the great faith that Jehoshaphat's kingdom was walking in at this particular time. And make no mistake about it; it was not Jehoshaphat's royal decree that put these guys on the front lines. No, Jehoshaphat did not compel these men to do this. This verse said that he first

consulted with the people about doing this. He wanted to see what they thought and was giving them the opportunity to do it willingly.

And based on the result, they evidently wanted to do it. Yes, it is very clear that they were fully persuaded that what God had promised, He was going to perform. The reason is because, in the natural, this was sure suicide. You have to understand, they did not have any weapons. They had no way of defending themselves. All they were carrying into this head to head encounter with the enemy were their



For More on this Subject ...



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A Word From Shannon

We have an AWESOME DADDY who does not see us the way we see ourselves. When He looks at you, He sees

Jesus! I know that might make some of your heads tilt but it's true.

I heard this statement years ago and it's one I'll never forget. It says, "God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called." So it doesn't matter what you've accomplished in

the natural, how smart you are, how much money you have or anything else, if you know your God, you can face any trial that comes your way and always triumph victoriously!

As Daniel 11:32 says, "...but the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits." When you see your God like this, there is no limit to what you and Him can accomplish.

(“Praise Goes First” continued)

garments of praise (Isaiah 61:3). This was a huge step of faith, saints! The even more amazing thing about their willingness to do this was that we have no reason to believe that God specifically told them to do it in the first place. They evidently just had it in their hearts, based on God’s promise, that they would not even have to fight in this battle. Wow! Great was their faith!

So how does their sending the singers to the front lines apply to the various battles that we find ourselves in? It teaches us that once we have inquired of the Lord and have received His direction, praise should precede everything else we do. In other words, once we have heard from the Lord, the only thing left to do as we are awaiting the manifestation of our victory is to rejoice and praise the Lord. It might seem like we need to do something in the natural when our enemies are approaching, but the single greatest thing we can do is praise God.

You see, God inhabits the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3). You could say that the best way to get God to manifest Himself in our midst is by praising Him. And when God shows up like this, nothing but blessings can remain. All darkness must flee in the brightness of His glory. Hallelujah! The carnal mind thinks that the only way we are going to get out of the mess we are in is through our own strength. However, the truth is that the strength we need to defeat our enemies is not found in the arm of the flesh; true strength is found in praise. Psalm 8:2 says that praise is the strength that will still the enemy; and this strength is released in our lives as we rejoice in the Lord (Nehemiah 8:10). This is the victory that overcomes the world and every battle we have in our lives- even our faith (John 16:33 & First John 5:4). However, this overcoming faith is voiced through praise because praise is the language of faith.

We are also told in our text that they instructed these singers in what they were to say: The New King James version says that they were appointed to say, “Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever,” but the Amplified Bible puts their simple statement of praise this way: “Give thanks to the Lord, for His mercy and loving-kindness endure forever!” So, I want you to visualize what was going on here: Singers were appointed to march before the actual army chanting- “Give thanks to the Lord, for His mercy and loving-kindness endure forever!”

Church, our response to God’s promise that He will go before us, defeat our enemies, and give us the victory is to be thanksgiving. Living this lifestyle of gratitude and thankfulness is a major key to always being led into triumph. When we gripe, complain and become discontent with what we are currently experiencing and what we currently possess, we can actually keep ourselves in the

wilderness even longer. This is exactly what happened to the children of Israel. In the face of adverse circumstances and undesirable situations, they constantly murmured. This not only displeased God, but it kept them going around the same mountains for 40 years. First Corinthians 10:10-11 says that these things were written for our admonition so that we do not murmur and complain like they did and, therefore, open ourselves up to the same problems.

Saints, God wants thankful children. He desires children who will, in the face of these undesirable circumstances, rise up in faith and thank Him for all that He has given them and for all that He will give them. When we adopt this lifestyle of thanksgiving and gratitude, we are on our way to being led into victory after victory.

I hope that you now see how important praise and thanksgiving are to our battle plan. Based on the passages of Scriptures we have covered today, praise and thanksgiving precede the manifestation of our desired victories. Therefore, since they are such an integral part to us always being led into triumph, perhaps we should take a moment right now and lift up our voices, thanking God for what He has promised us and praising Him for all that He has done.

So, pull the trigger today – the trigger of praise & thanksgiving that releases God into your adversity! Allow Him to manifest Himself in your life and bring you your desired deliverance. The battle belongs to the Lord, but the victory belongs to us! Thanks be unto God who always leads us in triumph!

Victoriously,



Living Logos Ministries is designed to equip and edify the Body of Christ through God’s Living Word and is supported by the faithfulness and generosity of its partners.

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