



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

www.bibleradio.org.au

BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1908 ~ Singing to Victory.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

So many recent *Bible Adventures* programs have dealt with the northern kingdom of Israel and its people rebelling against God over a long period of time. We now turn our attention to the southern kingdom of Judah and its king, King Jehoshaphat, who reigned for a long time. King Jehoshaphat mostly followed the Lord's ways and so God had given him peace in his country for many years.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)

What a wonderful example King Jehoshaphat is to all of us! As soon as trouble came to his kingdom, he went and asked the Lord what he should do. He prayed on behalf of the people and God answered but even before the people saw the results God had promised, they started praising and thanking God, believing that this would happen. This attitude of trust in God is necessary, as the Bible says it's needed before people will see the answers to their prayers. This event is recorded in 2nd Chronicles, Chapter 20.

This lesson on the power of praise has been experienced by countless believers as a result of praising God from their hearts. It's as if God is waiting for us to praise Him before He begins to act. To praise God at the very moment we're experiencing distress, fear, sorrow and disappointment is to demonstrate true faith in God's power and goodness that we're yet to receive. And God always honours true faith. King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah proved this to be true, and so can we.

Is thanksgiving always possible? In 1st Thessalonians, Chapter 5, it says: "Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." The Lord God, who is the author of all our blessings, appreciates, desires and even seeks, our praise and thanksgiving. In Psalm 50, it says: "Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; and to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God." In Psalm 145, the Psalmist also says: "I will exalt you, my God and King, and praise your name forever and ever. I will praise you every day ... Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness."

We can thank God in all things through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit; for we can trust that the Lord knows what is best for us, and He is ordering the course of our life and bringing its details to pass, both in the time and manner that He desires. God Almighty has never made a mistake and what He allows to come into the lives of His children is for the eternal good and the glory of God. In Hebrews, Chapter 12, it says: "God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness."

Among those of God's people living a lifestyle of pleasing Him by keeping their faith strong in the Lord Jesus Christ, each day can be a continual prayer of thanksgiving to God. Such a lifestyle includes doing to others what they should do to you, even when their actions are unworthy of it. This is shown by caring for the good of others, joyfulness, a profound peace within, patience, doing what is right even if it hurts, being faithful to the Lord, and treating others (including and especially your family) in a kindly manner at all times. Say something pleasant to others every time you get a chance. All this is character development and preparing you for service for the Lord wherever He places you. It also builds up others and encourages them to draw close to God themselves.

When we hear ourselves complaining about various things going on in our lives, we need to stop and ask for God's perfect pathway through our problems. Instead of focusing on what we don't have, we have a wonderful opportunity to thank God for all the blessings He's provided for us and will in the coming days! If you've asked Jesus to be your Saviour and Lord, your sins are now fully wiped away and your souls made new in the image of Christ; start by thanking God for your most precious salvation!

Thinking back to King Jehoshaphat and his great concern for the kingdom's future, what can we learn about the three armies on their way to attack Judah? Two of the armies, the Ammonites and the Moabites, were descendants of the two sons of Lot, Abraham's nephew and they lived on the eastern side of the Jordan River. The third army was from the hill country of Mount Seir, which was located south of the Dead Sea, and the people there were descendants of Jacob's brother, Esau. When the three armies combined, they made up a vast army. However, as there was a lack of cooperation and coordination between the three armies; God answered Judah's prayers for help and the armies killed themselves off before they got close to battle with Judah. They defeated themselves without Judah having to fight at all. Can we know such defeat in our lives as well?

There are a number of things that we can bring on ourselves that make us ineffective in the tasks God has appointed us to do. The quality of our lives is a direct reflection of the quality of our thoughts. A person is what they are thinking and eating. If you put rubbish into your mind and also your body, your mind and body won't work well. For your mind, a diet of TV movie dramas creates anxiety and fearfulness, distrust of others and keeps your mental focus off the Lord. You need to turn self-defeating thoughts into positive ones by doing what Philippians, Chapter 4, says to do: "Fix your thoughts on what is true and honourable, right and pure, lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."

Our physical wellbeing is also important in honouring the Lord. If you overeat sweet food and drink, and stop being active, your body will grow fat and become reluctant to exercise; in time, diseases will cause more physical distress. Two mistakes occur in most discussions about gluttony and over-consuming. The 1st mistake is that gluttony only applies to those who look overweight; the 2nd mistake is that gluttony always involves food.

In reality, it can apply to gaining and storing up any fleshly desirable things, including many possessions, the burning desire for entertainment, sex, or even gaining some personal fame or identity. Gluttony is about taking an excess of anything which becomes our idol and harms our relationship with God. The habits of our body can have profound effects on the sanctification or purification of our spirit. If we're unable to control our eating habits, we're probably also unable to control other daily habits too. So what can we do?

There's a simple solution: increasing our appetite for the Lord Jesus. To cure our excesses, we need to constantly ask God from Psalm 90 to, "Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days." Since we can never get enough of God's love, we can feast freely on it without fearing we'll become overfull. In fact, overflowing with love will benefit both us and others around us! Let's delight ourselves in the gospel of Christ and God's glory that it reveals. May our desire be for God and for His presence alone!

Now let's look to see when the Lord Jesus Himself showed thankfulness to His Father in heaven. Jesus' attitude in prayer was always one of thankfulness. Jesus showed public thankfulness to His Father when he spoke words of blessing before He miraculously fed the crowd of four thousand and also another crowd of five thousand with five loaves and two small fish.

In Luke's Gospel, Chapter 10, the Lord Jesus sent out 72 disciples in pairs to go into all the towns and villages that He was planning to visit. He gave the disciples strict instructions on how to conduct themselves. When they returned, they joyfully reported to Jesus that even the demons obeyed them when they used His name! Jesus told them not to rejoice because demons obeyed them but to rejoice because their names are written in heaven. Then Jesus prayed and said: "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way."

When Jesus was at Lazarus' tomb and the stone was rolled away, Jesus prayed, "Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent Me." Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" When Lazarus walked out of the tomb, many believed that Jesus was indeed the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah. This is recorded in John, Chapter 11.

Jesus also prayed to His Heavenly Father very early in the morning, as well as all night sometimes. He prayed both before and after all the great events of his life, and He prayed when life was unusually busy. Prayers of thankfulness and praise to God go hand-in-hand together. In His Name, we can praise Him too, like the people of Judah did, for in Psalm 100, it says: "Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing ... Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves ... Be thankful to Him, and bless His name."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

< END OF SCRIPT >
