

Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline September 27, 2015 (John Robertson)

What's in a Name

Jehovah-Nissi = I Am Your Defender

One of the names of God in Hebrew is Jehovah Nissi which means "I am the God who defends you." I am the God who protects you. Literally, "I am your banner.

And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The Lord Is My Banner

Exodus 17:15 (ESV)

What do you do? When you are faced with battles that seem overwhelming? You call on Jehovah Nissi – your defender!

A Case Study – 2 Chronicles 20

1. Turn to God First

Our perspective is limited while God's perspective is eternal; He can see the beginning and the end.

Prayer should be your first choice, not your last resort. If you want God to help you overcome the odds in any area of your life you have to turn to Him first.

"After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle... Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

2 Chronicles 20:1, 3 (ESV)

You can expect blessing in your life but you also need to expect battles in your life.

It's not your fear; that's not your problem. Your problem is what you do with your fear.

2. Talk to God

Talk to God about your situation. There is no problem that is too big and there is no problem that is too small for you to pray about.

Jehoshaphat stood before the community of Judah and Jerusalem in front of the new courtyard at the Temple of the Lord. 2 Chronicles 20:5 (NLT)

It's important when the odds are stacked against you there is a certain way you need to pray that is different from the way you normally pray.

Remind yourself of who God is.

“Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.” 2 Chronicles 20:6 (NIV)

Remind yourself of what God has done in the past.

*Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?
2 Chronicles 20:7 (NIV)*

Ask God to do it again.

*If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.
2 Chronicles 20:9 (NIV)*

His prayer is actually built around three questions: Are You not? Did You not? Will You not?

3. Tell God Exactly How You Feel

Confess your inability and inadequacy and need.

O our God, won't you stop them? We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help.

Chronicles 20:12 (NLT)

4. Trust God to Help Me

"...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

2 Chronicles 20:12b (NIV)

We do not focus on our problems but focus on God.

God's response:

This is what the Lord says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.

2 Chronicles 20:15 (NIV)

We get worn out when we assume God's role - the battle is not yours, it's His.

You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.

2 Chronicles 20:17 (NIV)

Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."

2 Chronicles 20:20 (NIV)

What do I stand firm on?

- The character of God and
- The word of God.

5. Thank God In Advance

After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising him for his holy splendour. This is what they sang: "Give thanks to the Lord; his faithful love endures forever!"

2 Chronicles 20:21 (NLT)

If you thank God after the fact, that's gratitude. If you thank God before it happens, that's faith.

Are you facing a difficult circumstance this week? Do you feel like the odds are against you? Can you think that problem is overwhelming? What do you do? You turn to God. Jehovah Nissi, the God who defends you.

Discussion Questions

1. Read through the whole of 2 Chronicles 20:1-30. What stands out to you? How did God defend His people?
2. The circumstances were frightening. It's not your fear; that's not your problem. Your problem is what you do with your fear. How do you let faith bring you to a place of rest not a place of fear?
3. In rushing into a situation do you fail to remind yourself of who God is and what He has done? How can you build this aspect of faith up in your life?
4. Spend some time now being honest with God about how you feel. Remind yourself that the battle is His and thank Him in advance for what He's going to do to defend you.