

Worship and Warfare

When we think of warfare what other words come to mind? Probably the remotest thought would be praise and worship. The word “war” brings thoughts of fighting. The word “worship” can make us think of songs and church. These two words are deeply connected, though.

The Bible records a story when the Israelites marched to war. They faced an army larger than their own. What could they do against such odds? Let's see:

“And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy *endureth* for ever. ***And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.*** For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy *them*: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they *were* dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped. And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much. And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day. Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies. ***And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.*** And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of *those* countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel. So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.” *2 Chronicles 20:20-30*

What a story! You see true worship involves trust. If the worshipper trusts and praises God, then amazing things can happen. When we obey God's Word and follow his principles miracles happen. Then we have even more to praise the Lord for! Jehoshaphat's victory started and ended with praise and worship.

Do you think if you faced your problems with worship that a victory could result?

“Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand;
Praise ye the LORD.” *Psalms 149:6, 9*