



THE KING

IMAGINE THE POWER

First and Second Kings for Groups

GROUP/FAMILY

Session 6

- Watch the sermon “God Wins, Ahab” on The Redemption Church YouTube Channel.
- Feed your soul daily with the subsequent text through Devotions 1531-1536 (on YouTube/podcast) and share them with the one you are discipling.
- Apply your life to the Bible alongside your group or family with the honest questions in this lesson.



This Week's Sermon exposit 1 Kings 18
Devotions 1531-1536 exposit 2 Chronicles 20,21
For more resources, visit: jessecampbellministries.com

Context

Why do we keep studying Chronicles in a series titled "The King"? Because 2 Chronicles tells the more detailed stories of certain kings in the books of I & II Kings. Yes, it is a lot of text compared to the typical Bible study, but you can just buck up and read the Bible together.

Second Chronicles was written to the post-exilic community, reminding returning Judeans how covenant faithfulness shaped their survival and restoration. In Jehoshaphat's day, Judah faced a massive coalition from Moab, Ammon, and the Meunites, threatening national extinction. Militarily, Judah stood little chance; politically, alliances were fragile; spiritually, however, Jehoshaphat sought the Lord rather than foreign assistance. The king assembled the people at the temple, emphasizing dependence on Yahweh's covenant promises given to Abraham and reaffirmed through David and Solomon. Public prayer and communal fasting show how crisis united families, leaders, and priests in seeking divine intervention. The Chronicler highlights temple-centered worship, prophetic guidance, and obedience as keys to deliverance. Judah's victory came not through strategy but through worship and trust. The narrative also underscores the theology of holy war: the battle ultimately belonged to the Lord. Spoils gathered afterward reveal total victory granted without combat, and the resulting peace shows God's sovereignty over surrounding nations. This passage encouraged later readers that faithfulness, repentance, and reliance on God bring preservation even when circumstances appear hopeless.

The Big Idea of the Text

Jehoshaphat sought God, Judah trusted the Lord, and God defeated their enemies, granting peace without Judah fighting.

Connecting the Session to the Sermon

Both passages highlight moments when God's people faced overwhelming opposition and needed unmistakable divine intervention. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah confronted Baal's prophets, demonstrating that victory comes through the living God rather than human manipulation or pagan worship. Similarly, in 2 Chronicles 20, Judah faced enemies too powerful to defeat militarily, yet victory came through prayer and trust instead of combat.

Each narrative shows God acting publicly so both Israel and surrounding nations recognize His supremacy. In both cases, worship preceded victory: Elijah repaired the altar and prayed, while Jehoshaphat led Judah in worship and trust before battle. Additionally, both accounts emphasize prophetic authority—Elijah on Carmel and Jahaziel in Jerusalem—confirming that God speaks and acts consistently in covenant faithfulness. Both events ultimately call the people back to wholehearted dependence on the Lord alone.

Biblical Text (CSB) - 2 Chronicles 20:5-30

Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the Lord's temple before the new courtyard. ⁶ He said:

Lord, God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven, and do you not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in your hand, and no one can stand against you. ⁷ Are you not our God who drove out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and who gave it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? ⁸ They have lived in the land and have built you a sanctuary in it for your name and have said, ⁹ "If disaster comes on us—sword or judgment, pestilence or famine—we will stand before this temple and before you, for your name is in this temple. We will cry out to you because of our distress, and you will hear and deliver."

¹⁰ Now here are the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir. You did not let Israel invade them when Israel came out of the land of Egypt, but Israel turned away from them and did not destroy them. ¹¹ Look how they repay us by coming to drive us out of your possession that you gave us as an inheritance. ¹² Our God, will you not judge them? For we are powerless before this vast number that comes to fight against us. We do not know what to do, but we look to you.

God's Answer

¹³ All Judah was standing before the Lord with their dependents, their wives, and their children. ¹⁴ In the middle of the congregation, the Spirit of the Lord came on Jahaziel (son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite from Asaph's descendants), ¹⁵ and he said, "Listen carefully, all Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat. This is what the Lord says: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast number, for the battle is not yours, but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow, go down against them. You will see them coming up the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley facing the Wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You do not have to fight this battle. Position yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. He is with you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Tomorrow, go out to face them, for the Lord is with you.'"

¹⁸ Then Jehoshaphat knelt low with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord to worship him. ¹⁹ Then the Levites from the sons of the Kohathites and the Korahites stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel shouting loudly.

²⁰ In the morning they got up early and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa. As they were about to go out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe in his prophets, and you will succeed." ²¹ Then he consulted with the people and appointed some to sing for the Lord and some to praise the splendor of his holiness. When they went out in front of the armed forces, they kept singing:

Give thanks to the Lord,

for his faithful love endures forever.

²² The moment they began their shouts and praises, the Lord set an ambush against the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir who came to fight against Judah, and they were defeated. ²³ The Ammonites and Moabites turned against the inhabitants of Mount Seir and completely annihilated them. When they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped destroy each other.

²⁴ When Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked for the large army, but there were only corpses lying on the ground; nobody had escaped. ²⁵ Then Jehoshaphat and his people went to gather the plunder. They found among them an abundance of goods on the bodies and valuable items. So they stripped them until nobody could carry any more. They were gathering the plunder for three days because there was so much. ²⁶ They assembled in the Valley of Berakah on the fourth day, for there they blessed the Lord. Therefore, that place is still called the Valley of Berakah today.

²⁷ Then all the men of Judah and Jerusalem turned back with Jehoshaphat their leader, returning joyfully to Jerusalem, for the Lord enabled them to rejoice over their enemies. ²⁸ So they came into Jerusalem to the Lord's temple with harps, lyres, and trumpets.

²⁹ The terror of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. ³⁰ Then Jehoshaphat's kingdom was quiet, for his God gave him rest on every side.

Applying Our Lives to the Text

- In 20:5-9, how did Jehoshaphat's prayer recall covenant promises, and what specific phrases should encourage Judah's gathered families facing overwhelming enemies in corporate worship today?
- According to 20:10-12, why did Judah confess helplessness, and how should believers prioritize seeking God's direction before responding strategically to threatening coalitions now forming nearby?
- In 20:13-17, what role did communal dependence play as Jahaziel announced God's promised victory, and how should churches practice patient trust during impossible crises today?
- From 20:18-19, how did worshipful submission precede victory, and what practices help congregations express confident praise before witnessing God's deliverance in public gatherings each week?
- Reading 20:20-23, how did obedient faith and appointed singers contribute to divine ambush, and how should testimony shape mission when confronting spiritual opposition worldwide today?
- Considering 20:24-30, how did God's victory produce rest and international fear, and how should grateful stewardship follow seasons of deliverance among God's redeemed communities globally?



The Takeaway: So What Church?

We will respond to overwhelming challenges by seeking God first rather than trusting human strength, remembering the battle ultimately belongs to the Lord. We will worship before victories are visible, trusting God's promises over circumstances. We will publicly testify to God's faithfulness so others see His power at work. This passage prophetically points forward to Jesus, who won victory not through force but through sacrificial obedience, defeating sin and death for His people. As Judah stood still and saw salvation, believers likewise trust Christ's finished work, resting in the peace He secured and anticipating His final kingdom victory.

For Parents:

SHOW YOUR KIDS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE

When we read about God defeating Judah's enemies, remember the Lord was teaching people to trust him before battles, just as Jesus later defeated sin and death for us. This story shows God saves not by human strength but by his power, preparing the world for Christ's coming kingdom, where peace finally reigns over every nation, inviting you also to trust Jesus as your forever King, promised throughout Scripture, guiding our family safely toward God's everlasting joyful future beyond fear, anchored securely in God's faithful redeeming love for all who believe in him starting even now, together, daily, onward.

FOLLOW ALONG

To cover the subsequent scripture in Daily Devotions 1531-1536, subscribe to Jesse Campbell Ministries on YouTube or on most podcast apps.

OTHER OFFERINGS

With an abundance of Bible Books to cover just like this study, there's plenty more to explore and learn from JCM, such as:

- The Seven Thunders: The Book of Revelation for Groups
- And Then You Will Know: The Book of Ezekiel for Groups
- Daniel: The Book of Daniel for Groups
- Dear Skeptical Friend: The Gospel of Luke for Groups
- Holy Dissident: Isaiah for Groups
- Letters to My Sons: The Pastoral Epistles
- Into The Fray: I Corinthians
- The God of All Comfort: II Corinthians
- Reason For Hope: 6 Apologetic Sessions for Groups
- The Sacred Acts: Ordinances of the Church
- The Revival Project: A Transformative Study of Nehemiah
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ABOUT JCM

Dr. Jesse Campbell is the founder and head Pastor of The Redemption Church, located on the outskirts of Seattle, WA. Jesse has a strong calling to preach the Bible as it is written. In the midst of a socially and religiously starving culture, his biblical foundation for understanding and preaching the gospel in a strong, clear, and concise manner has earned him a large following in a short amount of time. He's grown the JCM platform quickly, has been featured on national radio shows, and has been a guest speaker across the nation at many churches and large events.

Originally from the Pensacola, FL area, Jesse moved with his family to Nashville and worked at Lifeway Publishing for a while before completing his pastoral education. He was led to launch his own biblically-based church, The Redemption Church, in 2020.

Jesse is married to his wife, Jessi, and they have 4 children. Together they also run a conference for bereaved parents, in memory of their son, Aiden, called Aiden's Hope. When Jesse and Jessi aren't investing their time in JCM or The Redemption Church, you can find them on the bleachers cheering on many baseball and football games or mountain biking and snowboarding in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.