

When

- Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah for 25 years. His reign fits within the window of 920-890 B.C.

Key Characters

- **Jehoshaphat** – The son of King Asa of Judah. He took the throne of Judah after his father's death.

- **Jahaziel** – The son of Zechariah. He was filled with the Spirit of the Lord and prophesied God's deliverance of His people.

- **The Ammonites, Moabites, Meunites, and the Edomites** – These nations banded together to attack Judah.



Where

- **Jerusalem** – The capital of the Kingdom of Judah.

- **Engedi and Ziz** – Locations on the west coast of the Dead Sea that Judah's enemies passed through on their way to attack Judah.

Outline

- **THE MOABITES, AMMONITES, AND EDMITES ATTACK JUDAH (20:1-13):**
 - + A large army of Edomites, Ammonites, and Moabites came up from the south to attack Jehoshaphat and Judah.
 - + The messengers who reported the threat to Jehoshaphat told him the enemy army was at Engedi.
 - + Jehoshaphat was afraid. He announced a fast in Judah and had all the people assemble at the Temple in Jerusalem.
 - + Jehoshaphat called out to the Lord while in the middle of the assembly of people.
 - + He acknowledged that God ruled over the nations and had the power to withstand the enemy force that was coming against him.
 - + Jehoshaphat was clear that Judah needed God's help to win the battle. He asked God to hear His people's prayer and defend them.
 - + He said, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you" (20:12).
- **THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD FALLS ON JAHAZIEL (20:14-19):**
 - + The Spirit of the Lord fell on a man named Jahaziel who was at the assembly.
 - + He prophesied that the Lord would save Judah and defeat their enemies for them.
 - + The army of Judah was supposed to go out and meet their enemies, but God was going to give them the victory without them ever having to fight.
 - + When they heard Jahaziel's words, the king and all Judah bowed down and worshiped God.
- **GOD GIVES JEHOSEPHAT AND JUDAH VICTORY (20:20-30):**
 - + The next morning, the army set out to meet their enemies.
 - + Jehoshaphat appointed men to dress in "holy attire" and to go in front of the army to sing praises to God.
 - + When they met their enemies on the battlefield, the singers began their praise, and God went to work against the enemies of Judah.
 - + God set an ambush for the enemy army. Some scholars theorize this was an ambush of angels who took on the form of men.
 - + The ambush caused confusion amongst the enemy ranks, and they started fighting with one another until they had destroyed one another.
 - + It took the people of Judah 3 days to collect all the spoils. On the 4th day they blessed the Lord and returned to Jerusalem with hearts full of joy.
- **THE END OF JEHOSEPHAT'S REIGN (20:31-37):**
 - + A few of Jehoshaphat's faults are mentioned at the end of chapter 20, including his unwise alliance with evil Ahaziah of Israel (son of Ahab), but overall, he was a man who tried to serve God.
 - + Jehoshaphat did "what was right in the sight of the Lord" during his 25-year reign (20:33).

Application

- Its possible that God puts us in situations where we are in-over-our-heads to teach us to trust Him.
- Jehoshaphat didn't have the manpower to fight against his enemies, and he wasn't hesitant to acknowledge his insufficient power.
- He immediately called out to the Lord for help.
- Maybe stories like this are in the Bible to teach us how to respond when we encounter situations too difficult for us to handle.