



## The Valley of Blessings

The valley is usually known to be a metaphor to describe a time of hardship. I'm here to tell you that this is the inevitable valley the world is headed towards, but you don't have to be afraid nor dismayed, beloved, because this is not our fate.

Sure, we live in the world, but while the world descends further down into this valley, believers in Christ will remain restful in 'high ground' (or move towards it if not yet there). While the world descends into 'death valley', you are blessed, favored, and protected.

Consider the time when Israel's splitted kingdom, the nation of Judah, led by King Jehoshaphat, was surrounded by its enemies. It seemed as if they were also being dragged into the same fate as their neighbors when they were conquered by the same enemy. Let's find out their story.

### **2 Chronicles 20:1**

It happened after this that the kings of Moab, Ammon, and of the Meunites declared war on Jehoshaphat and the nation of Judah.

Like King Jehoshaphat and the nation of Judah, you also might have started off the year between a rock and a hard place in a given area of your life. If so, then this is for you.

Interestingly, the name *Jehoshaphat* means, "Lord of justice." This talks about the God who now judges in our favor because of the finished work of Christ. He did it by making you the very righteousness of God by faith in Christ. In other words, as the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, anything that was meant for your harm or disadvantage, God will turn the situation around for your good and advantage, even if it was due to a mistake of your own making. This means that whatever hardship you are going through, the Lord is turning your bad situation around this very moment and preserving you in the meantime.

### **2 Chronicles 20:13**

Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children stood before the Lord.

And so it was that King Jehoshaphat and all of Judah came before the Lord to seek for His help. King Jehoshaphat led the whole nation in a prayer to remind God of His covenant of grace with Abraham and how they were blessed, favored, and protected because of it.

Then King Jehoshaphat ends the prayer with a spiritual high-note. He tells God that, due to their disadvantage, they cannot obtain any type of victory without Him, so the only thing they will do is set "our eyes upon You." The New Testament highlights this truth beautifully as the Apostle Paul reminded the Church of Corinth that, the only way to move to higher ground (go from glory to glory) is by beholding the glory of the Lord, which is His super-abounding grace.

All of a sudden, they received instructions from the Lord from the midst of the assembly. But it wasn't just instructions; it was amazing news beyond what the mind can comprehend.

### **2 Chronicles 20:17**

You will not even need to fight in this battle. Take your positions; then stand still and see the salvation of the LORD. He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you!

The Lord instructed the nation of Judah to take proactive positions, plan with strategy, but instead of invading the terrorists with weapons, they were to just stand still and let the Lord take care of everything. So instead of King Jehoshaphat placing His best men at the frontline, he placed men who should sing to the Lord in an act of thanksgiving for His promises.

Now when they began to sing, the Lord set an ambush against the terrorists through legions of His angels. They made the terrorists fight each other to the point where the entire army self-destructed. When the nation of Judah showed up to the scene, there were corpses laying everywhere as far the eye can see. Victory, without moving a muscle, was theirs.

I want to focus your attention on the phrase “see the salvation of the LORD.” The word *salvation* is the Hebrew word *Yeshuah* or the translated name, *Jesus*.

For you and me today, you will see your situation turn around as you behold and trust His super-abounding grace incarnate as Jesus Christ. Thus, the same enemy that conquered everyone in your surroundings will not touch you or your family.

### **2 Chronicles 20:26**

On the fourth day they gathered in the **Valley of Blessing**, which got its name that day because the people praised and thanked the Lord there. It is still called the Valley of Blessing today.

Not only did the nation of Judah find their enemy defeated but all the precious belongings left behind became spoils of war. The Bible says there was so much abundance of valuables that it took the nation of Judah 3 days to gather everything.

Once they gathered everything, the nation of Judah took a pit stop at a valley that was unlike any other valley. In this valley, there was abundance like you've never seen and a victory-cry towards the Lord like you've never heard. It was so overwhelming with blessings, that the Bible records it as the *Valley of Blessings* until this day.

Similarly, this is the valley that you're headed towards, beloved, because you are under the new covenant of grace, where even His angels have been commanded concerning you. Here, you will experience an abundance of favor and blessings and protection.

Don't be afraid or discouraged because this is not the place where natural disasters will strike you or your family; this is not the place where diseases will touch you or your family; this is not the place where famines nor wars will affect you or your family. Amen.

**By Joyner Briceño**