

2 Chronicles 20:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

Analysis

Jehoshaphat's prayer facing overwhelming military odds contains one of Scripture's most honest confessions: 'O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.' This models prayer's progression: appeal to God's justice, confession of powerlessness, admission of confusion, and finally, total dependence ('our eyes are upon thee'). The honesty about not knowing what to do contradicts false confidence; the commitment to look to God expresses true faith. Reformed theology emphasizes this posture - human inability driving dependence on divine sufficiency. This prayer anticipates Christ's invitation to cast all anxiety on Him.

Historical Context

The coalition of Moab, Ammon, and Edom invaded Judah (c. 853 BCE) with overwhelming force. Jehoshaphat's response - calling nationwide fast and seeking God rather than military strategy - demonstrated covenant priorities and resulted in miraculous deliverance (20:15-24).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What impossible situation are you facing where you need to confess 'we don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You'?
2. How does admitting powerlessness and ignorance become the gateway to experiencing God's power and wisdom?

Interlinear Text

אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה	בְּלֹא	תִּשְׁפֹּט	כִּי	בְּ	כִּי	אֵין	כִּי	בְּ	כִּי	אֵין	כִּי	בְּ	כִּי	
O our God	H3808	wilt thou not judge	H0	H3588	H369	H0								
H430		H8199												
מִתְּנִיחַת	לְפָנֵי	בְּרַכָּה	כִּי	הַבְּרִית	כִּי	הַבְּרִית	כִּי	הַבְּרִית	כִּי	הַבְּרִית	כִּי	הַבְּרִית	כִּי	
for we have no might	against	company	this great											
H3581	H6440	H1995	H7227	H2088										
מִתְּנִיחַת	לְפָנֵי	בְּרַכָּה	כִּי	מִתְּנִיחַת										
them for we have no might	against	company	this great	that cometh										
H3581	H6440	H1995	H7227	H935										
בְּלֹא	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	מִתְּנִיחַת										
we	neither know	neither know	neither know	what to do										
H5921	H3808	H3045	H4100	H6213										
בְּלֹא	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	לְאַבְנֵת	
but our eyes														
H5869														
עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	
but our eyes														
H5921														

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 25:15 (Parallel theme): Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

Psalms 141:8 (References God): But mine eyes are unto thee, O GOD the Lord: in thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute.

Deuteronomy 32:36 (Judgment): For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.

Psalms 9:19 (Judgment): Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in thy sight.

Psalms 43:1 (Judgment): Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.

Jonah 2:4 (Parallel theme): Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

1 Samuel 3:13 (Judgment): For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

2 Samuel 14:11 (References God): Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.

Judges 11:27 (Judgment): Wherefore I have not sinned against thee, but thou doest me wrong to war against me: the LORD the Judge be judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon.

Revelation 19:11 (Judgment): And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.