

# 2 Chronicles 20:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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The extraordinary battle strategy 'he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army' demonstrates worship as warfare. Sending singers ahead of soldiers seems militarily foolish but theologically profound. Praising 'the beauty of holiness' (hadrat qodesh) focuses on God's character rather than the threat. This act of faith - worshiping before seeing victory - exhibits trust in God's promise (20:15). The result was miraculous: God set ambushments and enemies destroyed each other (20:22-23). This teaches that spiritual battles are won through worship and faith, prefiguring Christ's victory through apparent weakness (the cross).

## Historical Context

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This unconventional military tactic (c. 853 BCE) required extraordinary faith from both Jehoshaphat and the people. Archaeological evidence shows ancient Near Eastern armies didn't employ worship choirs as front-line troops, making this strategy unique to covenant faith.

## Related Passages

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[Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth](#)

## Study Questions

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1. What battles in your life need to be approached with worship and praise rather than conventional strategy?
2. How can praising God's character before seeing deliverance strengthen your faith in difficult circumstances?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיֻצַּח	אֶל	בְּעֵד	נִعַם	מִשְׁבְּרִים
And when he had consulted	H413	with the people	he appointed	singers
H3289		H5971	H5975	H7891
לִיהְיוֹן	מִפְלָלִים	לִפְנֵי	בִּצְאתָ	לִפְנֵי
the LORD	and that should praise	the beauty	of holiness	as they went out
H3068	H1984	H1927	H6944	H3318
הַמָּסִיל	וְאֶמְרִים	כִּי	לִיהְיוֹן	סִסְמָן
the army	and to say	Praise	the LORD	endureth for ever
H2502	H559	H3034	H3068	H5769
				H2617

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 107:1** (Grace): O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

**Psalms 106:1** (Grace): Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

**2 Chronicles 5:13** (Grace): It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;

**1 Chronicles 16:34** (Grace): O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

**1 Chronicles 16:29** (Holy): Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

**Psalms 29:2** (Holy): Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

**Jeremiah 33:11** (Grace): The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD.

**2 Chronicles 7:3** (Grace): And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

**2 Chronicles 7:6** (Grace): And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of musick of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.

**Psalms 96:9** (Holy): O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.