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Part 1

*The Battle Is  
the Lord's*



Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this  
great multitude; for the battle is not yours,  
but God's. 2 Chronicles 20:15





## *Chapter 1*

# Job's Story

When we faced disappointments with our children, I asked a lot of questions. What did we do wrong? Were we too easygoing? Was it the children's school setting? Did we spend enough time with them?

I looked at other parents who seemed to have fewer struggles, and I tried to answer these questions. There did not seem to be any certain answer. Some seemingly careless parents had children who appeared to do well. Other parents were strict, and their children also did well.

I reread the life of Job. He was a perfect (blameless) man. He feared God and eschewed evil (Job 1:1). He rose up early in the morning and offered sacrifices for his children according to the number of them all (Job 1:5).

"That's me," I cried, thinking of my own early morning prayers. "That's exactly what I've been doing"; and Job's story became my story.

In Old Testament times, God's blessings were more often expressed to His people in outward physical and material ways. In this Old Testament account, Job lost his children to physical death.

In New Testament times, we see God's blessing more often fulfilled in spiritual ways. Making Job's story our own story, we think of losing our children spiritually. None of us want to lose

## Rejoice in Hope

our children to physical death, but our greatest fear would be to lose them to spiritual death.

The account of Job shows us Satan can attack any family, even a godly family. It would be a great victory for Satan to defeat a godly family. God allowed Satan to break through His hedge of protection to test Job, even though Job was a man “perfect and upright; and one who feared God, and eschewed evil.”

When Satan attacked Job’s family, Job fell down and worshiped God. He said, “The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” Job wasn’t giving up when he spoke these words. He just realized God was doing something he didn’t understand.

When it seems Satan is leading our child away from our godly teaching, I can’t give up and say, “I’ll just have to learn to live with it.” I need to fall on my face too and worship God. Like Job, I need to recognize God is in control and is bigger than any problem I face.

I realized, that to be like Job, I needed to increase the intensity of my prayers. When I prayed more fervently, God answered. He reminded me He cares. He reminded me He is the only One who can save my family, and He has not changed. He taught me this wasn’t really my battle at all. It was His battle.

Another Old Testament account tells of King Jehoshaphat and how God fought a battle for him. What looked like a sure loss turned into a victory. In this section, we will look at the account.



Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped. - Job 1:20



## Chapter 2

# The Lord's Battle

This Old Testament account begins with bad news. Messengers told King Jehoshaphat, “There cometh a great multitude against thee” (2 Chronicles 20:2). *My bad news is the great multitudes of the lusts of the flesh coming against my children. My teaching and influence seem so little. I feel like I haven't prepared my children adequately.*

King Jehoshaphat cried out to God, “We have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee” (2 Chronicles 20:12). *These words were written thousands of years ago, but they exactly express my feelings today.*

Like King Jehoshaphat, I sometimes fear (verse 3). *I am right to fear. The danger is real. The devil comes as an angel of light, yet he is a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (2 Corinthians 11:14; 1 Peter 5:8).*

Jehoshaphat set himself to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast. He prayed. His prayer is recorded in verses 6-11. He said, “We know You are God in Heaven and You rule over all. We know You are in control of everyone. Didn't You drive out the enemy and establish us in this land? We've built a sanctuary here in Your name. When any trouble comes on us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we come here and cry to You. We know