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Saturday evening Prayer meeting at Ebenezer Chapel, Clapham, S.W.4. 6.4. 68

Opening Hymn:- 622 "Poor fearful saint be not dismayed"

First Reading:- 2nd Chronicles: Ch: 20: verses 1/17 inclusive.

Address by Pastor:- These verses describe a remarkable experience to which Jehoshaphat and the children of Israel were witnesses. What a mercy if you and I can feel that this same God, this God of our fathers, is our God, that He will be with us, and will not leave us, nor forsake us!

The first point I would like to note is the FEAR, the APPREHENSION and ALARM that followed Jehoshaphat - see verse 3 - "And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD". It is quite understandable that he should be filled with alarm in the face of this immense army against which he felt he had no might. We are natural creatures and are subjected to the feelings of nature under extreme conditions, but, Jehoshaphat's fear and distress had a gracious issue! He set himself (margin:- set his face) to seek the Lord. This term "SET" indicates a resolve, a purpose, an earnestness, and a reality. He set himself, he set his face. Good Daniel used the same expression "I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplication"(Dan:9/3) So here is direction for us, to set ourselves to seek the Lord, by grace, whatever the nature of the thing may be that weighs upon us: it is the best course we can take.

As from verse 6, we have this remarkable prayer - there is something very expressive and beautiful in it. First, good king Jehoshaphat acknowledged the sovereign power and might of God, saying:-"In Thine Hand is there not power, so that none is able to withstand Thee?." Jehoshaphat was under extreme and distressing circumstances, conditions, and naturally, it appeared as though they might be completely overwhelmed! This experience seems to answer to that of David in one place where he says, "From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee."(Ps:61/2) He had a confirming view of God's almighty power as being above all enemies, all oppositions, and all powers. Now this is the view that a believer may have when things are overwhelming, and sometimes, seem as though they must crush him.

There is a further point in this prayer(v.9.) I would like to mention and that is the gracious reminder of the Lord's promise, referring to times when "The sword, judgment, pestilence or famine might come upon the land, and the people, it is said "Cry unto Thee in our affliction, then Thou

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wilt hear and help" as though he would say "Thou hast said this". He reminds the Lord of what He had before declared, that if they cry unto Him in their trouble, He will regard them, and appear for help and deliverance!

In verse 12, he committed this mighty army into the Hand of God to judge them: then he goes on to say "For we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are up unto Thee." This is great, isnt it? The eyes were upon One Who had infinite might and power. His enemies had great might and power, but Jehoshaphat's eyes went up to heaven with a "Neither know we what to do?"

The sequel to this, as you know, was a remarkable deliverance, so that they did not have to fight in the battle at all! The Lord fought for them! This was the promise:-

"FEAR NOT, NOR BE DISMAYED, TO MORROW, GO OUT AGAINST THEM, FOR THE LORD WILL BE WITH YOU". (verse 17)

2nd Hymn:- 1077 "DEAREST LORD, what must I do?
ONLY THOU THE WAY CANST SHOW;

2nd Reading:- 2 Chronicles Ch: 20. verses 18/21 inclusive.
