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Subject: THE JEHOSHAPHAT APPROACH TO IMPENDING "NGEUH"

Wouldn't lie to y'all oh! There is no way I would have gone me anywhere near the book of 2 CHRONICLES if it had not been for the "BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR" Program that my Church started! Truth is, de true-true "Program Followers" dem don go faaar, while Yours Truly, in spite of frequent and blatant "cheating", (as in, SKIPPING whole paragraphs and Chapters in LEVITICUS dealing with "KONGO", CIRCUMCISION, INFECTIOUS DISEASES, not to talk of NUMBERS where I just couldn't bring myself to read ALL of Ephraim and Manasseh's descendants me!), is quite the "LASS COCO", still "chilling" in CHRONICLES!! I finally made it to 2 CHRONICLES 20 dis morning time and after I was done reading, I sure Thanked God for sending the COCORICO that woke me up when it did, and for NOT letting me skip the Chapter because it has what seems to me to be just the right RECIPE for BRACING & PREPARING ONESELF TO FACE APPROACHING NDUTU oh!! True, some "mbahlucks" just come crashing down on our heads "GBIM" with no warning, but some announce themselves well in advance oh! Besides, since ALL OF US fall into one of the following 3 categories:

- Just comm'ot from de STORM, (You dey still hear yah head for inside "nwiiiiing")
- Right inside-inside de STORM now so, (de Devil has you inside his SESSEH PAN or undah his PEPPER STONE
- Na de STORM dat for Round-About dey cam, (There is FAYA ON DEH MOUNTAIN!!)

it may not be a bad idea for us to familiarize ourselves with Sango JEHOSHAPHAT's Method of Dealing with or Countering Trouble!

So, who was this SANGO in the first place? Short Answer:
He was one of the many Kings of Judah.

And what "NDUTU" was he confronted with? That answer is clearly spelled out in verse 2: "A VAST ARMY IS COMING AGAINST YOU FROM EDOM ... IT IS ALREADY IN ENGEDI"! Naturally, Sango J was "ALARMED" - who wouldn't be?? However, instead of wringing his hands and muttering "NA WELI MAONGO" non stop, verse 3 says that:

- He RESOLVED TO INQUIRE OF THE LORD
- He PROCLAIMED A FAST FOR **ALL** JUDAH

Then, Verse 4 goes on to say that **THE PEOPLE** came **TOGETHER TO SEEK HELP FROM THE LORD**, emphasizing that they came **FROM EVERY TOWN!** In fact, verse 13 farther along, is more precise as to who exactly came together to "seek The Lord". It says "ALL THE MEN OF JUDAH, THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN, AND LITTLE ONES stood there before The LORD.

Had to pause here and "wanda" about these "PEOPLE" who came "together" palava. Does God expect me to get all of the City of Charlotte, NC or even all of my "Quatah" to join me in fasting & prayer? I doubt it. However, He has provided me with A FAMILY (both immediate & extended), A CHURCH/SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILY, A SISTERHOOD, etc., that I can call upon to join me in my pleas and petitions!! (Note to Self: Do not ever find a hidden corner, sit yourself there in ISOLATION, and be "A TYPE"!

God loves individual prayer, but He OBVIOUSLY cherishes "corporate" prayer, asin, "where 2 or 3 are gathered" oh! Cannot count the number of times He instructed Moses, Joshua, Elisha, etc, to ask **ALL THE PEOPLE TO ASSEMBLE** and "seek His face"! Stick with your Prayer Meeting you oh, Mammie!!)

What does the passage go on to say? That King J "STOOD UP IN THE ASSEMBLY AND PRAYED" - An EXTRAORDINARY MASTERPIECE OF A PRAYER:

- It starts by **AFFIRMING GOD'S SUPREMACY & DOMINION OVER THE YEARS:** "O LORD, GOD OF

OUR FATHERS, ARE YOU NOT THE GOD WHO IS IN HEAVEN? YOU RULE OVER ALL THE KINGDOMS & NATIONS ..." (v.6)

- It continues by **ACKNOWLEDGING GOD'S POWER TO SAVE**: "If calamity comes upon us ... we will stand in Your presence before this temple that bears your name and WILL CRY OUT TO YOU IN OUR DISTRESS, AND YOU WILL HEAR US AND SAVE US" (v.9)
- The prayer goes on to **ADMIT MAN'S INABILITY TO REMEDY THE SITUATION WITHOUT GOD'S HELP**: "For WE HAVE NO POWER TO FACE THIS VAST ARMY THAT IS ATTACKING US. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO, BUT OUR EYES ARE UPON YOU". (v.12)

Next thing we know, "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD" comes upon "Jahaziel, a Levite". Now, I certainly do not purport to know how "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD" operates, but it would be difficult, if not IMPOSSIBLE for anyone to try to convince me that the fact that **the people were gathered together to seek God** has NOTHING to do with this MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD at this particular time. And why am I so "persuaded"? Because of a "similar" much more familiar MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, Centuries afterwards, recorded in the New Testament, in ACTS. Here's what the very first verse of ACTS 2 says about that amazing day of PENTECOST:

"When the Day of Pentecost came, THEY WERE **ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE**. Suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from Heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ..."

Now, back to CHRONICLES and JAHAZIEL THE LEVITE! He gets a DIVINE REVELATION, which he reveals to the Assembly. The very first words God says to His People through him?

"DO NOT BE AFRAID OR DISCOURAGED because of this vast army!!" Words which must have brought as much comfort, solace and encouragement to these people as they did on all the other 364 occasions recorded in the Bible when God spoke the same words!

What else does he say – which must have been sheer music to the ASSEMBLY's and to OUR OWN EARS?

- "THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS, BUT GOD'S"
- "YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO FIGHT THIS BATTLE"
- "GO OUT TO FACE THEM TOMORROW, AND THE LORD WILL BE WITH YOU"

And what was the REACTION to his message? JEHOSHAPHAT BOWED with his face to the ground, the people fell down in WORSHIP, and the Levites stood up and PRAISED The Lord with a Loud Voice!

(Note to Self: Never you PINCH anyone at Church to get them to sing with a softer voice)

Next follows a "MILITARY" STRATEGY that can only be ranked second in "STUPIDITY", to the Battle of Jericho!!! Who does Jehoshaphat put at the Head of his army? SUPER MAKIA? GOLIATH? MERECINE MEN? NO-OH!!! He

"APPOINTED MEN TO SING TO THE LORD AND TO PRAISE HIM FOR HIS SPLENDOR"!! AH NGANA!! In

ohdah werds, na CMF – as in CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Middle Farms e take put in front de ZAMINA-MINA EH EH, WAKA-WAKA EH-EH-EH Dem! In front of even "BIG BELLEH NGALLE!!! And what were the results of this seemingly "daft" strategy?

"AS THEY BEGAN TO SING AND PRAISE, THE LORD SET AMBUSHES AGAINST THE ...MEN WHO WERE INVADING JUDAH, AND THEY WERE DEFEATED"!!!(v.22) MANYAKA!!! TALK ABOUT THE LIBERATING & CONQUERING POWER OF PRAISE & WORSHIP; NO CUTLASS, BUSH PEPPER INSIDE HOT WATA, OR ZWA-ZWA REQUIRED!

And the "FUNNIEST" part of the whole story? De enemy dem fight each ohdah instead of fighting de people of Judah oh!! LWFMKK!!! (Laff Wan Finish Me Kwata-Kwata!!) Here's what verse 23 says verbatim, as in "werd for werd":

"The men of Ammon and Moab rose up against the men of Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, THEY HELPED TO DESTROY ONE ANOTHER"!!! When God chooses to make total MUMUs out of your enemies, He sure does it in the most "ridiculous"

of ways oh! Verse 24 says when the Army of Judah dem climb hill for look de so called "VAST ARMY", na only die body dem see! No one man for enemy side no escape, YET not a single bow and arrow – or RUBBER GUN was used by the Men of Judah to achieve this MAJOR VICTORY. NA ONLY PRAYER, WORSHIP & PRAISE so oh! To top it all, the Men of Judah went in and gathered "EQUIPMENT, CLOTHING & ARTICLES OF VALUE" – more than they could take away! In fact, it says it took them 3 whole days to gather what they did take!!! ALL OF THIS, and they never raised a finger! Don't know about you but I sure dig this approach of fighting NDON, NOT RELYING ON PLENTI TALK, PERSONAL NGUM, KANDA STICK FROM DEH EVIL FOREST, and all other sorts of "E GO LET YOU DOWN" methods, BUT WITH PRAYER, PRAISE, FAITH & TRUST IN A GOD WHO HAS PROVEN HIS MIGHT OVER & OVER AGAIN – FROM THE GET-GO like TATA JEHOSHAPHAT, not AFTER ALL ELSE HAS FAILED!!!

OH FOR GRACE TO TRUST HIM MORE ...

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo