***2 Chronicles 20:14-17 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. 15And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s. 16Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. 17You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you.”***

This morning, we’re in ancient Judah, Jerusalem, right outside the Temple, gathered with the people, fasting and praying for God’s deliverance from a threat gathering in En Gedi, on the edge of the Dead Sea, less than a day’s march away. The threat is an army of Ammonites, Moabites, and people of Mt. Seir, described as a great multitude, and they’re heading this way. The people are gathered in the Great Court, husbands, wives, children, even little ones, listening to King Jehoshaphat speak in fear. People are uncertain. Husbands, sons, brothers are preparing for war. Wives, children await what’s next. Jehoshaphat is more or less asking why O’ Lord, rather than trusting boldly, and praising loudly.

Verse 14 *Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.*We meet Jahaziel, his name means God sees He’s a Levite from the line of Asaph. Asaph is credited with twelve Psalms in the Bible – Psalm 50, and 73-83. Asaph’s descendants are musicians, singers. ***Don’t forget that***. Jahaziel is a musician. Guess what else he is? A believer in the delivering power of God! A believer that God is God, and He will stand for those who kneel before Him! The Spirit of the Lord falls on him in an instant and he prophesied. God’s Spirit will use who God will use. We know little about Jahaziel, except that God chose to use Him as a vessel to speak to His people, and that my friends is all we need to know.

Verses 15 *And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.* Jahaziel speaks Trust into the crowd. Do not fear nor be dismayed. This is God’s battle! You leave it in His hands. You Trust and Obey. And God says that to us this morning. The battle is not ours. The victory is already won. We need not be discouraged or dismayed. We must Trust and Obey. God brings the victory, and we’re called to pray, be present, and praise. Pick up the yoke of Jesus. His burden is light.

Verse 16 *Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.*Jahaziel prophesies the route the invading multitude will take and where they’ll be found. The Ascent of Ziz is a steep mountain pass coming up from the Dead Sea, which is why he says Go Down against them. The people must Trust and the people must Obey.

Verse 17 *You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem! Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you.* You will not need to fight. Stand still. See God’s Salvation. The battle is not mine. Stand still. See. How often we fail to realize that the battle is not ours. Our battle is to Trust and Obey the Lord. Our battle is to Praise even when we don’t understand. We must not fear the world or be dismayed at what is around us. Rather, we must stand and see the Salvation and Deliverance of the Lord, that is Who we Fear, He is the One who always dismays. When God is with us, who can stand against us? No one and nothing.

We can’t leave it there. Verse 21 says *And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever.* Jehoshaphat Trusts, Obeys, and now Praises. The musicians and singers, of whom Jahaziel is one, leads the way. They go before the army saying, “Praise the Lord.” We must let our praise lead the way, no matter the storm we face, no matter the strength of the enemy. Verse 24 reveals to us the Salvation of God - *So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.* The battle was not theirs. They did not lift a sword. I can imagine though that Jehoshaphat and the people stood still as they looked at the Salvation littering the valley below.

This week, let’s start any battle we face with Praise leading the way. Let’s fight less and stand still and see more. Let’s let the Spirit of the Living God fall on us and Trust that the goodness and mercy He’s given in the past is what we can Trust Him for today and every day. And, as we Trust and Obey, let’s never forget to Praise. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Creator of it all and He says, “I know what you’re facing child. Trust Me. Obey Me. Stand still, neither fear nor fret, only Trust and Praise as the battle is won before you even see the foe.