



# **Battle Ownership**

**The kind of response that attracts  
heavenly backup**

**LAZARUS TAKAWIRA**

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## **Dedication**

I have written several books thus far in my life, but this one I consider it very special because this is my first book as a married man and husband of one wife. With that, I would like to acknowledge my dear wife, Sinah Happy Takawira, and I dedicate this book to this precious life partner from God.

If you are feeling overwhelmed with life, this book is for you as well. If you feel like the enemy has one too many times tried to attack you, then this book is for you as well! I would also like to dedicate this book to my faithful readership, especially those who have been with me and followed my literature from my first book, 'Imagine Africa' right up to this one. This one is for you too.

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## **Introduction**

The best, if not the epitome of ancient blockbuster movies and reality shows, are engraved in the Bible. The gravity and glorious nature of many of these stories will make the modern film industry look crummy and shoddy in its creativity.

The Old Testament houses some of the most miraculous, jaw-dropping, and as the millennials would call it, lit battle stories. One of my all-time favorite battle stories comes from the second book of Chronicles, chapter 20.

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In a captivating narration, the author Ezra or 'The Chronicler' (A preferred author ascription by critical scholarship. But either way ALL scripture is God-breathed – see *2 Timothy 3:16-17*), gives us an account of a unique battle style. We can also see the use of aberrant 'military arsenal' that both ancient and modern humanity struggle to grasp.

Several years ago, I found myself in a situation that brought me to the knowledge of God as the LORD of Hosts (My redeemer and one who truly fights for me). The life of a Christian is one that ought to be filled with continuous encounters of God and His Persona if we keep walking by faith.

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In moments of need, when we have nothing, and God comes through for us and provides, we would encounter Him and know Him after that as God who provides. When our health fails us or sickness grips our loved ones, we cry out to God for healing, and it is in those seasons that we get to know God as our healer.

Likewise, it is in moments when we feel attacked, surrounded, or even defenseless that we get to experience a loving God that fights for us and fights the enemy on our behalf. For the last four to five years, I have been extremely privileged to serve God and His people in the beautiful nation of Botswana.

I have been doing this faithfully, and by faith out of Pretoria, South Africa, a near 400 KM drive, that's a good 4



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hours on the road coupled with 1-2 hours of border crossing time. On Fridays, after I knock off from my weekday engagement of being a Ph.D. research candidate in Genetics, I then drive to Botswana and spend my weekends there, engaged in several ministry activities and take the return trip on Sundays after Service.

Whenever I drive to Botswana, the trip is often filled with great anticipation, but the return trip is often filled with a deep sense of fulfillment.

I have a vivid memory of one trip I made to Botswana to minister there at a conference. The conference was Spirit-filled, and countless lives got impacted by the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. After a winning weekend, I set off for Pretoria on Sunday evening. I crossed

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the border just after sunset and put my foot on the pedal in the bid to get to the next town, not too late for dinner and refilling my petrol tank, but I never made it to that town that evening.

About 70KM from the border in one of the small villages, my journey came to a pre-mature halt as I found a mob of angry protestors blocking the main road with rocks and burning fire. This off-course is a familiar sight and a way of the people to protest and make their grievances known to the government.

After failed efforts of taking an off-road detour and a car in need of petrol, I found myself driving back toward the border again in search of a petrol station and the good thing is that I found one. Still, the unfortunate part is that I found it closed and left me with

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no choice but to sleep in my car in the middle of nowhere with nothing in sight except for the seemingly abandoned petrol station.

That evening I did not quite have the revered goodnight sleep as the scourge of mosquitoes took turns to feast on me, given that I could not sleep with the car windows full closed in fear of suffocation.

Dawn felt like a lifetime, but praise God dawn inevitably came, and when the petrol station opened for business, I was their first customer that Monday morning. Upon filling up my petrol tank, I had a conversation with God in which I couldn't resist 'reminding' Him that I was His child, and He was my God and my protector. I went on to remind God that I was coming from a ministry trip

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in case He forgot and also that if I were to drive through the mob, they would stone the very same vehicle that I use for ministry and advancement of His Kingdom.

I have since learned that in life, there are moments when the public posture and art of praying get thrown out of the window, and you get real with God pouring out your frustrations and petitions to Him in a non-rehearsed or choreographed manner.

I would like to call this the Christian tantrum. Off-course strict scholarship might argue with Him, but I am glad God is Holy and still a God who is also a relational and loving God, I call Him Abba Father! After throwing my Christian tantrum to God and with a little bit of petition in it, I could almost

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hear God loudly saying, I've got you now, go on and drive to Pretoria, you have a 9 am meeting to catch.

The writer in the book of Romans Chapter 10 verse 17 is clear about the source of faith and that; it comes by hearing and hearing the word of God. Likewise, fear and doubt have a source too, and often fear comes by hearing and hearing the word of the enemy that lacks even an ounce of truth.

Full of faith yet still trying to ignore the enemy's whisper and attempt to cast fear on me, I drove towards Pretoria, and fast approached that very same village, which still had more than the remnant of the protest going on but still enough to maintain the blockage. Another invaluable lesson that I have learned is that no matter how faith-filled

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we get, that is not enough to stop the enemy's attempts to cast fear, and often we can still walk by faith and still have doubtful thoughts, but it is our choice to choose faith over fear. If you ever feel like you have faith, but you are also scared, then that is normal.

When I got to the blockage, I gathered just enough faith amid overwhelming fear. After all, faith like a mustard seed is just enough to get the job done.

I recall driving through the blockage area and zigzagging from left to right and from right to left to avoid the rocks and debris that blocked the road. While I drove through the blockage, I had seemingly eye contact with some of the protestors, and none of them stopped me, and I passed through as though they could not see me.

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When I looked through my rare view mirror, I saw another car that attempted to pass that same area, but the mob stopped it from passing through. I will never forget that day because I saw God covering, protecting, and fighting for me.

Whether the protestors saw me driving through and choose to let me pass through or they were too tired of protesting and didn't have the energy in them anymore to stop me. Whether it was God who blinded their eyes so that they could not see me or there is another reason plausible is probably a certainty, I will have to find out one day when we get to heaven. But one thing I know for sure is that on that day, God had my back!

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If Chronicles Chapter 20 produced into a movie, its trailer would go something like this; Judah and the people of God came under threat of an attack from the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir. The distinct God-fearing leadership of Judah through King Jehoshaphat went on to seek the Lord and declared a fast to hear from God on how to fight in this battle.

Through His prophet, Jahaziel the son of Zechariah God spoke to His people and the famous words “Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s” were uttered.

Upon receiving an instruction that they should position themselves and march forward with singing and praise towards the 3-state army, the children of God



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obeyed, and sure enough, God fought for them by orchestrating a war inside the enemy's camp until they killed each other even to the last man. That day, King Jehoshaphat and the children of God did not need to lift any natural weapon, and the only canal thing they had to do was collect the spoil and valuables from the annihilated enemy.

In the chapters to come, I hope to unpack some valuable lessons on the nature of God and how some battles if not most of them do not belong to us but to God and how through faith and obedience we can live to see the great God and loving God fight on our behalf. Through this book, I envisage every reader coming to the knowledge of God as a Father who protects us, and I desire that from here forth, we will

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respond to life's battles and situations in the same manner King Jehoshaphat and Judah did.

**The battle belongs to God!**

## Chapter One: It's rough, 'eish.'

*It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi). – **2 Chronicles 20:1-2 (NKJV)***

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“It’s rough, eish,” is a common street language in the Southern parts of Africa, which has become a basic greeting in some cases. The expression denotes the common everyday challenges of life and its gravity. Often, this is interchanged with another phrase, “The struggle is real.”

Although the magnitude and degree of our everyday challenges vary from one person to another, the reality is that we each face our problems and deal with different battles in life. This reality is not an exception for believers, and being a follower of Christ almost feels like one has a target on their back.

The call to follow Jesus Christ is not one that comes void of trials and tribulations. The reality is that we all face challenges that we ought to

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overcome, so yes, it's rough, eish. This expression I use it in this chapter, not as an affirmative declaration but an acknowledgment that things don't always go the way we plan them, and our prayers don't always get answered when and how we want them to be answered.

The rough life and challenges that we face are not to fail us but to pass. The process of making gold involves very high temperatures to attain pure gold, and likewise, the growth of a Christian does not necessarily come from the comfort of your couch.

I have often wondered why being a Christian comes with many trials and tribulations that, in many cases, non-believers do not get to experience. We are continually wrestling between our

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fleshly desires and the things of the Spirit. We are in a constant battle, not just spiritually but physically too. We are continually battling poverty, sickness, depression, hopelessness, and the list goes on until Jesus comes back.

The day you make the great decision to give your life to Jesus Christ and follow Him, it's one to remember. However, it's as if that is the very same time all hell breaks loose, and the enemy unleashes his agents to come and test you. What was not a temptation suddenly is one when you get saved, and this is because when God comes into your life, the battle between the worldly things and Godly things intensifies.

The writer in the book of James writes, *“My brethren, count it all joy when you*

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*fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” – **James 1:2-4 (NKJV)***

This portion of scripture is much easier to read, memorize, and recite than it is to comprehend and live out. To count it all joy when I think about it more in-depth, I realize it doesn't necessarily mean I have to be joyful, pretend to be joyful, or speak like I am joyful.

You know how we Christians can be shouting, am blessed, am well, and all is good after being asked how we are, and we often miss the opportunity to be real and truthful and receive ministry. For me, when I read this scripture, I realize that counting it joy means that during tough times and trials, I have an

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understanding that it will all lead to a place of joy, and at the end of it, victory awaits me. It's almost like when I lack money, and I might be worried and not necessarily joyful, but I know I will receive a financial breakthrough, and joy is coming at the end of this trial.

I am reminded of the Psalmist when he says mourning may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning (*see Psalm 30:5*). The possession of the promised land would have been joyful, but that was not the feeling as the children of Israel went through the desert. Yet, their journey ultimately led to a place of joy, and for that reason, we ought to see the opportunity of breakthroughs whenever we hit a brick wall.

Every dead end and obstacle we face in life is a chance to see the hand of God



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in our lives, experience a breakthrough, and overcome, for joy awaits us on the other end. Therefore, we count it all (like one, two, or three opportunities) joy!

I cannot imagine what was going through the mind and heart of King Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles chapter 20 verses 1 and 2 when he heard the news that armies had united against him and his people and that they were on their way to destroy them.

It's one thing to wake up in a situation that you cannot run away from, and you just have to deal with it and fight on. But it's another thing to see the situation coming from afar and having to wait for its arrival. The stress and anxiety that the natural man would be subjected to, knowing that this could potentially be the last day on earth,

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must be nerve-wracking, but as believers, there is HOPE!

When they came to the King to warn him that a great multitude is coming, I can imagine the King saying; It's rough, eish. However, like all of us, we have options when it comes to our response. We can prepare to fight or flee using our human capacity, ability, and wisdom, or we can get down on our knees and have a chat or a Christian 'tantrum' with God, whichever suits you best.

When we get down on our knees, it is a form and symbol of surrender. But it is the surrendering of our will to the Almighty God, and in exchange, we get the strength to stand against the perils of this world. It's true that if we can knee before God, we can surely stand before men.

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I would be lying to you if I told you that Christian life is a journey without trials and tribulations. I am sure you already know that even if you have been a Christian just for a couple of weeks. Trials will come, but what will matter how you respond. How you react to the challenges you face determines your victory and your story. Our story is a sum of our responses and choices. I don't know what you are facing right now or what's coming your way, but I want to challenge you to take a minute and consider your response.

**How will you respond?**

**How did King Jehoshaphat respond?**

**Let's read on**

## Chapter Two: How do I respond?

*And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord. – 2*

***Chronicles 20:3-4 (NKJV)***

There is no doubt that the body of Christ in every nation on earth longs for such a government led by God-fearing and exemplary leadership like that which King Jehoshaphat models in this

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story. Imagine when an economic challenge befalls your nation or when a pestilence threatens to drive humanity into extinction, and your president declares a moment to pray and fast and seek the Lord? Just imagine that picture!

As I grow in my Christian walk, I encouraged more and more to seek the Lord in times of trouble before I ask for advice from men. As hard as it is, it is better to run to the Lord in times of crisis than to run to men whose wisdom is limited, and power has boundaries. Of course, this is not always the case because, as humans, we love quick things and microwaved answers.

We would instead pick up the phone and ring a mentor, a Christian friend, or an expert for advice, and within 5

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minutes, we have a ‘solution’ or recommendation. Although there is nothing wrong with that, it is better to hear from God directly whose advice when obeyed will never lead you to failure but only to victory.

My wife knows how much I love seeking the Lord for myself before I can consult someone else on any particular matter. Likewise, the mentors in my life have always led me to a place that I learn to seek God for myself, and often, their advice entails seeking God for direction and way forward in every situation.

Today I am a Pastor, and I love the people God Has entrusted me to take care of in this season. But part of my loving and taking care of people entails teaching them the importance of

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learning to depend on God and not on the man of God.

Whenever people come to me for prayer or advice, I often ask if they have taken time to seek the Lord in their private place before they come to me. It's not because I can't pray for/with them or I don't want to pray for them, but this is because as a Pastor there is nothing as beautiful as watching the people under your care grow to a place of running to God first, and they learn to hear from God regarding their situations.

When people are dependent on the man of God, what will happen if the man of God is not there? After all, Jesus Christ commands us to make disciples of all nations, not dependants (*see Matthew 28:19*).

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It breaks my heart to see how many Christians are becoming so gullible by the wolves in the shepherd's clothes. Perhaps it's because we Christians of today have become too lazy to seek the Lord in prayer and reading His word for ourselves. Challenges and tribulations will come our way, and what will happen if your man of God or woman of God is nowhere near and not able to pray with you or even tell you what God is saying regarding your situation? God, (like a good Father that He is) wants us to come to Him and seek Him regarding the big things in our life and also regarding the smallest of issues. You can never bother God!



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In 2 Chronicles Chapter 20, verses 3 to 4, we see a summary and initial response of King Jehoshaphat to the looming threat and attack from the 3-state army that is seemingly great. Although the Bible says the King feared, I am glad that this was not the end of the story. You and I can be fearful sometimes, but we need to make sure that fear will not bury us.

I am glad the King's fear did not ignite flight but instead led him to seek the Lord and declare a fast. So how do you respond? Let's unpack the three crucial things that happen in these two verses, and it will help you, and I react to what life throws our way.

✓ **Seek the Lord**

The King's first response was to seek the Lord. If I have to discontinue the writing of this book right at this juncture after you have caught the importance of seeking the Lord and you decide to do so from today onwards, then I would gladly do that.

Our reflex action to trials and tribulations should be seeking the Lord. We should be quick to seek the Lord, in the same manner, one hastily removes the hand from a blazing hot stove.

One of my favorite portions of scripture comes from Matthew chapter 6, verse 33. The Bible in that scripture is clear about how, as believers, we should seek the Lord and His righteousness first, then all these other things will then be added to us. Two keywords in that verse

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are first and all. We ought to seek God first, not second, and certainly not as a last option. The promise in that of the addition of all these other things in our life, not some but all!

✓ **Fast**

The second thing the King did in His response to the enemy's threat was to fast. Its unfortunate fasting has become forgotten and fallen out of fashion in our modern Christian social construct. Growing up, the first charismatic Christians I was exposed to understand the power of fasting, and from that, I caught its power because, with that, the will of God and victory in their lives was always evident.

Fasting inevitably drives us far from carnality. When we fast, we move away from our selfish desires and abilities, and we are drawn to God. I have a good feeling that although the King was afraid in the beginning as a result of his humanity, fasting soon pulled him away from fear and closer to faith.

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Throughout the Bible, we see the importance of praying and fasting, and Jesus is very clear about it in the gospels. Fasting still works, try it. Don't be fast to act before you fast and pray!

✓ **Gather together**

Not only did the King seek the Lord by himself, but everyone from all the cities of Judah came together to seek the Lord. It was almost like an assembly time for the whole nation not to listen to the presidential address but to seek the Lord. What excites me here is the fact that they gathered together and not in their separate places, and not some cities, but all the cities came.

Sometimes the enemy will come for your family, your workplace, your school, or your Church. Have you ever been in that season when you are under attack from the enemy, and ‘coincidentally’ all your friends are also under attack? Often when that happens, we rarely recognize a collective attack on us and

our loved ones, and as such, we fail to respond collectively.

I have a good feeling that when you and your loved ones are going through a tough time, the enemy is not bothered if you maintain your family drama, distance, and fights. But the moment you come to gather in unity and to seek the Lord, I bet you he will be falling off his chair because he knows you are about to see victory. After all, God loves it when His children dwell in unity, and He can't help it but command blessings (*see Psalm 133*).

**But how did the King even pray?**

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Have you ever wonder how some people pray about something, and the next thing they get an answer from God, yet you will pray but sometimes feel like God does not hear you in the same manner he hears your friends or your church elder? Sometimes we want to pray, but in tough times we don't even know where to start or even what to say. That is why I end up throwing my tantrum to God. After all, He is my Abba Father, Dad!

The King and Judah's response and how they prayed is well documented in 2 Chronicles Chapter 20 from verse 5 to 13. Let's read that quickly:



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*Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, and said: “O Lord God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, ‘If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.’ And now, here are the people of Ammon,*

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*Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them— here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit. O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.” Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord. – 2*  
***Chronicles 20:5-13 (NKJV)***

When I read this portion of scripture, there is an art of prayer that I caught, and I want to share it with you here.

**i. Exaltation**

At the beginning of his prayer, King Jehoshaphat exalts God and reminds God of how great He is and how powerful He is. Exalting God might not immediately change your situation, but it will change your perception and how you view the situation concerning the power and greatness of God.

Exalting God puts your heart and mind in a place of understanding that no matter how big your challenge is, it's not bigger than God. No matter how bad and great cancer has advanced, it's not bigger than God, and no matter how great the challenge, it's not bigger than God. It doesn't matter the size of your problem if you know just how big your God is.

**ii. Remembrance**

In his prayer, King Jehoshaphat couldn't resist it but bring to remembrance how God drove the inhabitants of the land and gave that land to the children of Israel. You know how we always say that if God has done it before, He can do it again. It's real and not just one of those Christian clichés. Remembrance brings confidence, hope, and faith all at the same time.

It's like watching a football team play that is known for comebacks very late in the game, and they are only down by one goal in the first half of the match. You will be at peace, confident, hopeful, and full of faith because you know that they will come back. After all, they have done it before so many times. When you remember what God has done for you

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before, it's much easier to trust Him to do it again for you!

**iii. Declaration**

*“If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.”*

**– 2 Chronicles 20:9 (NKJV)**

The King in this portion of scripture prays with confidence, and one can only do this and approach God in this manner if they truly know God. A child will gladly bring the bill for school fees to their parents and turn around to prepare to go to school with confidence because the child knows what his or her parents can do regarding the bill. Do you know what God can do?

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If not, then I urge you to open the Bible and am confident that you will soon get the idea. The King makes a bold declaration that God will hear and save them. Not may you please save us, or may you please listen to us. Such a bold declaration in prayer is a result of knowing God. If you know God's healing capacity either from scripture or from experience in your life or some else's life, you can boldly make a declaration of healing because you know that is what He can do.

#### **iv. Surrender**

In his closing petition and prayer, the King then acknowledges to God that there is a threat coming their way, and they are defenseless against the great multitude. He goes on to admit that he doesn't even know what to do (*see verse 12*), but their eyes are upon God. What a powerful closing statement of surrender to God in prayer.

What they surrendered to God was their limited human capacity in exchange for God's deliverance. I love how King Jehoshaphat unashamedly said that he had no idea how to deal with this challenge except to just look to God, and looking to God is enough action and faith move to see victory.

Sometimes leaders and Christians are often under unnecessary pressure to



have something to say or come up with a quick half-baked solution amid the fire instead of pausing for a minute and look to God from where our hope comes from and from where we find victory. Whatever you think you know, and the little wisdom you have to help you deal with life's challenges might not be good enough. You have to learn to surrender your thoughts, plans, and limited understanding to God, and when you do that, it's almost like you are saying to God that He is the plan A, and there is no plan B except Him.

I pray that from this moment going forward, your response will not be the same anymore.

**This is how I respond!**

## Chapter Three: Let HIM do His thing

*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". – **2 Chronicles 20:15 (NKJV)***

We often confuse God's generous inclusion of humanity in His plans for limitation. The man's availability can never limit God's plans. He can use a donkey if need be, but we ought to

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realize the gravity of the privilege and honor that we have whenever He includes us in His plans and uses us for the advancement of His kingdom. With that knowledge, we need to allow God to be in total control of our lives and every situation. However, that demands a great deal of obedience.

Up to this moment, we have seen how news of a looming attack brought to King Jehoshaphat the children of God triggered a response to the threat by seeking the Lord and fasting. Now let's explore how God responded to the cries of His people, and with that, I pray we can learn one or two things in the process we can experience freedom from anxiety and worry.

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The beauty of God alights in that He is alive, and He is a God who speaks. God speaks to those who listen, and He does so through His word (Bible) and His servants and other believers.

We can find God when we seek Him, and scripture in the book of Matthew cements it by saying, “*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*” – **Matthew 7:7-8 (NKJV)**.

It's the confidence we have as believers that we serve a God who speaks to us and a God we can find if we seek Him. However, our challenge many times is not that we don't hear God, we do hear

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God so many times when we read His word when we listen to a sermon on Sunday or any other day online. Our real challenge is obedience.

We struggle with the following instructions and trusting God to have total control. Because it concerns our lives, we always feel the need to assist God in decision making in our lives, but God is capable of doing it all by Himself. Let HIM do HIS thing!

Letting God do His thing is not a call for us to sit back on our couches and become a bunch of lazy Christians. Letting God do His thing is about knowing our place, positioning ourselves right, obeying what God has asked of us, and keeping our faith in Him and ultimately letting Him handle

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the battle. Let us unpack how this works by looking at verses 14 to 30 as the story comes to closure.

We allow God to do His thing by doing the following items that were asked of the children of God and well demonstrated by Judah.

✓ **Listen**

After seeking the Lord in prayer, we pick up this story in verse 14 of the same chapter, where the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel. God speaking through Jahaziel starts by demanding the attention of His people in verse 15 and calling them to a place of listening. You might be reading this and wondering what is so special about listening. Luke couldn't have recorded it better than this: But He said, "*More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!*" – **Luke 11:28 (NKJV)**.

The art of prayer and the institution of prayer is incomplete if all we do is talk and not give God a chance to talk back

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to us, and we listen. Sometimes we wonder why we never hear God in our prayer closet. Perhaps we are too busy talking too much, such that even if God is to say something, we won't listen to it because we are still talking. It's challenging to speak and listen at the same time, and we need to learn to shut up sometimes and just listen to God. So, after the items on your prayer list have been uttered to God, don't rush out of the prayer closet, but wait. Spend some time in silence and listen to God. This listening can be done by reading the word of God.



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### ✓ **Fear not**

After God asked the people to listen, He then instructed them not to be fearful because of the great multitude, and in this case, He gave the reason why they shouldn't be afraid. That reason is that the battle is not theirs, and the battle belongs to God (*see verse 15*). Many of us get destroyed by fear and not the actual effect of the thing that brings us fear. It is fear to fail that stole and countries to steal your dreams to start that business, project, or write that book and not failure itself because fear won't allow you to start.

Many verses in the Bible speak about how, as believers, we should not be fearful but full of faith, bold and courageous. Sometimes we are afraid

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because we do not know. No wonder in the book of Hosea, it says we perish because of lack of knowledge and rejecting knowledge (*see Hosea 4:6*).

Not knowing is a dangerous thing. Imagine if the children of God knew that the battle that was looming didn't belong to them, and it had its owner and that owner was God? That knowledge in itself would have cast all fear out.

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### ✓ **Obey**

God went on to instruct the people of Judah to rise and go against the enemy, in other words, to go toward the enemy, and God went on to give them the exact location where they would find the enemy before the Wilderness of Jeruel. Although the instruction is to go, that instruction is, however, coupled with an assurance that they would not need to fight in that battle (*see verse 16 and 17*).

To a non-believer that might sound crazy and a stupid thing to do because it almost seems like walking right into the hands of the enemy without a plan or a solid strategy.

But the thing about letting God do His thing demands so much of our obedience. Obeying God is very easy

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when He asks you to do what you already know and that which is within your comfort zone. Obeying God becomes very sticky when what He commands us to do doesn't add up in our minds.

Obedience is simple. Just obey! If God says go, then go. The other details are not that important, and what is essential is obedience. Simple obedience can lead us to great testimonies, and likewise, just a little bit of rebellion can lead us to great regrets and deep trouble.

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### ✓ **Trust Him**

What happens next is pretty cool and would have made an excellent scene in a best-seller movie. As the nation of Judah obeyed the word of God, this is what happened:

*Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another. 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*

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*escaped. – 2 Chronicles 20:22-24  
(NKJV)*

Ladies and gentlemen, that is how God did His thing!

I still can't get over how God won this battle for His people. But if we are not careful, we could miss another lesson, and that is a lesson on trusting God. Going to battle and advancing with signing and praise doesn't quite sound like the ideal military strategy any modern-day government would be willing to use amid an attack from the enemy.

But the powerful act of obedience and trusting God that King Jehoshaphat and Judah showed is incredible, and we can learn from them. Trusting God is not based on how solid the plan looks.

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Trusting God is simply based on the fact  
that He is a solid God!

## Conclusion

This story ends with the children of God in possession of more than a remarkable battlefield story, but it ends with them gaining material things of great value. After God has won your heart, He has no problem blessing you with material items. God had the hearts of the children of Judah, and not only did he fight for them, but He also allowed them to take the valuable spoil from the battlefield, and they made it back with them (*see verses 25-30*).

I have no idea where you are in your faith or life, but I have written this book just to encourage you at this moment in



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time and to say to you that the battle is not yours. I pray that this small and simple understanding that God has allowed me to gain will be a timely and relevant tool in your life to help you navigate through the challenges of life. God wants you to experience victory not just once but every day, but the question is, how much do you want it?

*I will leave you with this:*

Don't jump into battles quickly with your carnal understanding and capacity. Seek the Lord and obey His word and let's check out how God is going to do it for you and what exactly will happen!

**God bless you!**

## About the Author

A proud follower of Jesus Christ, a motivational speaker and young leader, Lazarus is a firm believer and a man who thrives to walk by faith daily. He holds a BSc (Hons) in Biosciences from Middlesex University London, an MSc in Biotechnology from Oxford Brookes University, and he is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Plant Genetics.

His passion for the rise and development of a new generation of leaders who serve their communities with great passion, integrity, and love can be felt as he shares his heart out in

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this book. Lazarus is very passionate about missionary work, church planting, and social causes, particularly education. He is a strong believer in transformation through education and education for ALL

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### **LeaderSHEEP booklet**

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