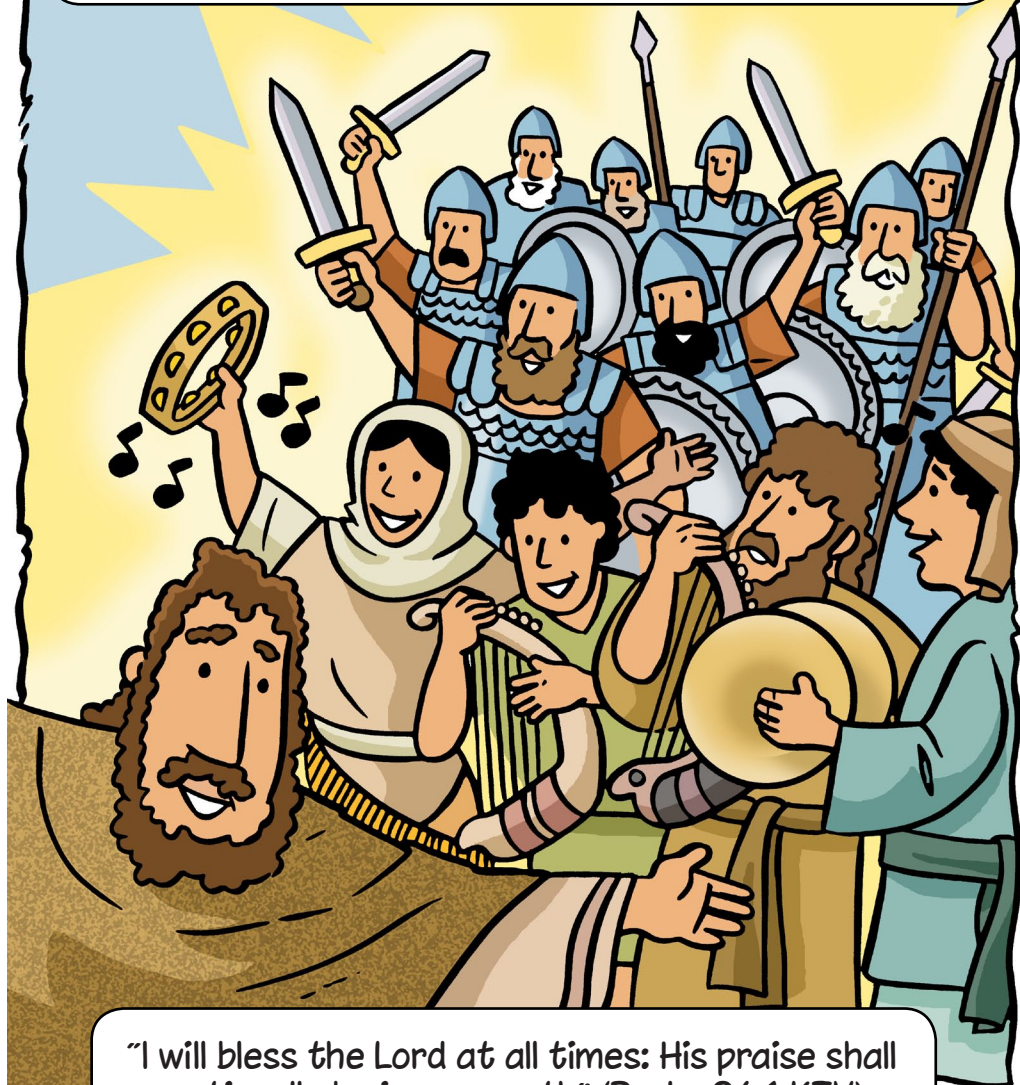


A Strategy Like None Other

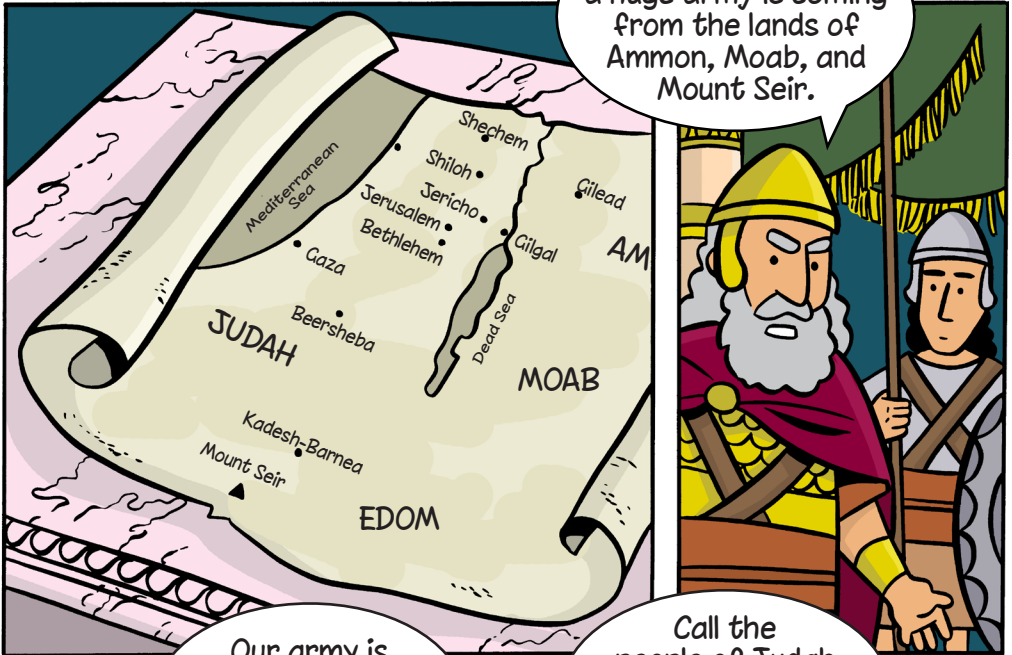
Here's a true story from 2 Chronicles 20 in the Old Testament about how giving praise to God won a battle for God's people. It took place in Judah around 900 B.C.



"I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1 KJV).

This was one of the most unusual battles fought to defend a country. Who ever heard of a group of singers and musicians leading an army into battle? But that's what happened.

King Jehoshaphat, a huge army is coming from the lands of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir.




Our army is too small to fight such a great and mighty army.

We must ask God for help.

Call the people of Judah to come together and pray for the Lord's help.





Many of the people of Judah came to the capital to pray with their king.

O Lord, God of our fathers, You rule over kingdoms and nations, You are powerful and mighty. No one can win a war against You.

We know that even when things look bad, if we pray to You, You will hear us and save us!

O God, we aren't strong enough to win a battle against this army that has come to fight us.

We don't know what to do. Please show us!

At that moment, a prophet named Jahaziel gave a prophecy of instruction from God.



Don't be afraid or discouraged because of this great army.

This battle is not yours, but God's.

You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. The Lord will be with you!

When the prophecy had ended, King Jehoshaphat bowed his face to the ground, and the priests led the people in praises to the Lord.



The next morning the king and his helpers had an idea.

Gather together those who can sing and have them go out in front of our army.



I want them to praise God for how wonderful He is. Tell them to sing unto the Lord, thanking Him for His love and mercy!



The singers were to thank God in advance for the victory He had promised to win for the people of Judah.

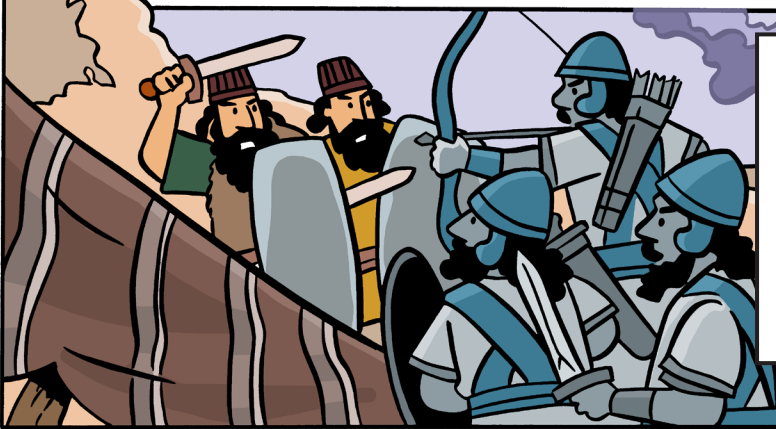


As soon as the singers began to sing and praise, God sent His own attack against the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, and they were defeated.

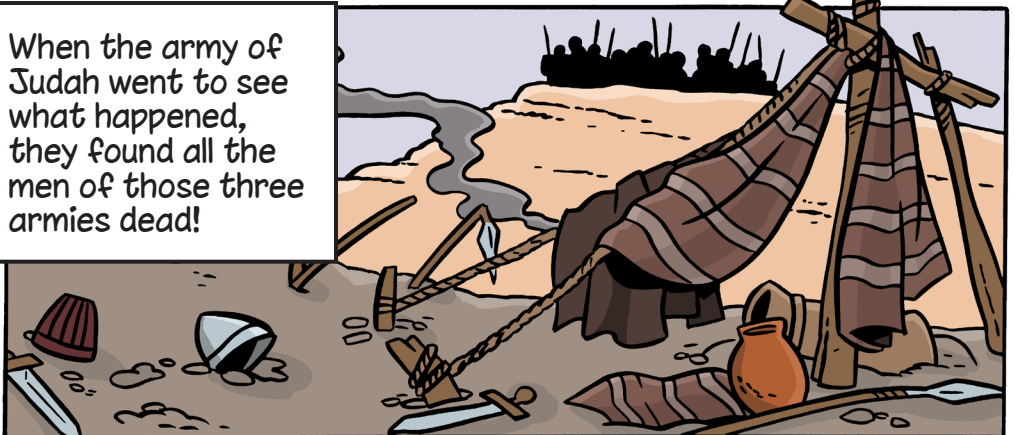
The armies of Ammon and Moab attacked and defeated the army of Mount Seir.



Then the armies of Ammon and Moab turned on each other and destroyed each other as well.



When the army of Judah went to see what happened, they found all the men of those three armies dead!



When you praise and thank God for all He's done for you and even for what you know He will do for you, you are honoring Him and showing your faith in Him. God in turn honors you.



"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful to him, and bless his name" (Psalm 100:4 AKJV).

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done" (Philippians 4:6 NLT).

Don't wait until you feel like praising God or until you see Him answer your prayers before you start praising Him. Praise God for answering your prayers by faith, even when you haven't seen the answer yet.

Praise God for what He can and even wants to do for you, and then God's power will fill you to the full!

S&S link: Character building: Values and Virtues: Courage-1d

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