

FIX YOUR EYES

This is your last day of your study break. You might be anxious and stressed for tomorrow to come. You might be unsure of how the questions might turn out to be and how ready you are to face them. Regardless, the exam is happening – this is reality. So in preparation for tomorrow onwards, I just want to share with you one thing we can do to prepare ourselves in the face of a great challenge.

When I think of preparing ourselves for a great challenge, I always think of King Jehoshaphat – found in the Bible, in 2 Chronicles 20. Let me share with you this story.

King Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah, and he was a very good king. He was said to have followed the ways of God, instructed God's Word to be taught to all the people in Judah, and to have built up the nation very well.

However, one day, two nations and a smaller tribe – Moab, Ammon, and the Meunites – all neighbouring Judah decided to declare war on Judah. Can you imagine? This was a three-vs-one battle. King Jehoshaphat and his people were completely outnumbered.

Just as you would have imagined, the whole of Judah was very afraid. King Jehoshaphat said: "we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us." (2 Chronicles 20:12)

King Jehoshaphat had done everything prior to ready Judah for war. In a few chapters earlier, in 2 Chronicles 17, we read that King Jehoshaphat built up fortresses in Judah and trained up armies for defence. Yet, despite the fortresses and the armies that Judah had, it was still insufficient for the great army coming against him. Like this very major exam before you, great challenges ahead of us can seem far too great for us to handle, even despite all our preparations.

This is where I'd like to share a learning point from King Jehoshaphat with you. Although King Jehoshaphat knew that his preparations were unlikely enough for the great challenge ahead of him, he knew just one but most important thing: the God whom he worships is the God in control of all things.

King Jehoshaphat prays to God in front of all of Judah, saying to God: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." (2 Chronicles 20:12)

“We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

This is King Jehoshaphat’s posture. Completely dependent on God. He knows even as King, he can only do so much. But the one who can do all things, is the God who rules over all the earth – the Creator God; our God.

After King Jehoshaphat prays that prayer, God responds and says to him: “Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.” (2 Chronicles 20:15)

2 Chronicles 20 ends with God delivering Judah from their enemies. God intervened for Judah and King Jehoshaphat against the great challenge ahead of them.

So today, even as you conclude your final day of this study break. You have done all you could. You have done your revisions and your practice papers. You are as ready as you can be. Yet, it is understandable that you are worried and anxious of the great challenge ahead of you – just as King Jehoshaphat was.

Remember this one thing: the battle is not yours but God’s. So long as you keep your eyes on God, He will deliver you. He is the God that promises that He has great plans for you – plans for your welfare. Do not worry. Do not be anxious. But as Philippians 4:6-7 says, let your requests be made known to God “by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving”.

What is ahead of you might be great, but the God behind you is greater. Fix your eyes on Him alone.

Dear God, we recognise that You are the God over all things. We pray today even as our P6s sit for their exams, that they may do their very best. But most importantly Lord, we pray that they may keep their eyes on You alone. That even against a great challenge, they will always know how great of a God You are, and that You are for them. We commit them into Your loving and powerful hands. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.