



Stand Firm

"Stand firm, hold your position and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf." 2 Chronicles 20:17 ESV

After a brief time of peace during Solomon's reign, the kingdom became divided. The next few hundred years was a time of fighting between Israel and Judah. Sinful alliances with nations which served pagan gods and political compromises drew God's people into great sin. Yet, God pursued His people through prophets, priests and the occasional King who called God's people back to the truth; but inevitably the people went back to warring with each other and surrounding nations.

During one of these battles, the Moabites and their allies were approaching Judah. King Jehoshaphat called on God for wisdom and strength. A Levite, Jahaziel, told Jehoshaphat to "not be dismayed at this great horde for the battle is not yours but God's." (2 Chr 20:15b) He told Jehoshaphat to "stand firm" and "see the salvation of the Lord."

Christians living in 21st century America often find ourselves taking battle positions against the constant onslaught to the beliefs on which we stand. Salvation alone in Christ is not always a popular truth in our pluralistic society. God's Word on the sanctity of life is an "inconvenient truth" for some people. The Biblical view of sexuality is under direct assault by many who suggest that "tolerance" is the only humane and enlightened viewpoint.

While we rely on the Holy Spirit to fight these battles and give us the strength to "stand," we should not miss the key principle in this passage from Chronicles. "Salvation" belongs to the Lord. He has fulfilled all weaknesses of the flesh...including our own! So as we stand on God's truth and fight the battles to our faith in America today, let us remember the battle is the Lord's who is mighty to save. Stand firm while resting in His Salvation.

God's peace,

Mike

Discussion Questions-

1. What Christian values do you most see under assault in your school community?
2. Why are some people in our society so "anti-Christian?"
3. What are some helpful ways to sharpen your skills of Christian apologetics?

<https://www.lhm.org/godconnects/>

<https://www.lcms.org/about/leadership/commission-on-theology-and-church-relations/documents/lutheran-doctrine-and-practice>

Lutheranism 101 from CPH

Why I Am A Lutheran by Daniel Preus from CPH