

PASSION CITY CHURCH

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Study Guide

# Alarmed, Determined

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## Major Points

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- 1** When facing overwhelming circumstances, be alarmed but immediately resolve to inquire of the Lord rather than collapsing into fear or making ungodly alliances.  
*2 Chronicles 20:3*
- 2** Begin prayer by affirming God's sovereignty before presenting your need — this positions your mind correctly and gets the attention of heaven.  
*2 Chronicles 20:6*
- 3** Honest desperation before God ('we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you') is not weakness — it is the posture of faith that activates God's power.  
*2 Chronicles 20:12*
- 4** The battle belongs to God, not to us — our role is to take up our position, stand firm, and put praise out front.  
*2 Chronicles 20:15*
- 5** The antidote to fear is not masking it or mustering courage but placing active faith and trust in God.  
*Psalm 56:3*
- 6** Name your places of blessing (Barakas) — remembering where God came through prevents panic and fuels faith for the next battle.  
*2 Chronicles 20:26*

## Key Quotes

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*“God didn't put Jehoshaphat's story in Scripture just for our entertainment or information or education. He put it there so that we could learn from this story so that when we're in desperate times, we'll know what to do.*

at 0:38

*“The underlying message is, God will come through for you. Don't make an alliance with a wicked king.*

at 7:53

*“I'm just telling you, that is an opening line that pleases the heart of God. When you put that as the preamble and the prelude to whatever the rest of your prayer is, not only are you positioning your mind with right thinking and really good theology, you're getting the attention of heaven.*

at 8:58

*“And I’m fighting. And I’m working. And I’m on the case. And I am on the side of right. And I am on the side of truth. And I’m on the side of justice. And I love you. And I’m for you. I gave my life for you. I am with you.*

at 45:00

*“The antidote to fear is faith. It’s believing God.*

at 28:14

*“How many Barakas you have in your life? 100,000? Name them. Because you’re going to need them.*

at 32:07

## Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Giglio distinguishes between being 'alarmed' and falling into 'fear and dread.' What is the difference, and how does Jehoshaphat's response demonstrate the right way to handle alarm?  
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2. Pastor Giglio warns against making alliances with people who are not of God, drawing from Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab. Where in your own life might you be tempted to seek security through ungodly partnerships rather than trusting God?  
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3. Pastor Giglio says that Jehoshaphat's prayer opening — affirming God's sovereignty — 'gets the attention of heaven.' How does beginning prayer with worship and theology rather than requests change the way you approach God?  
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4. Pastor Giglio teaches that the antidote to fear is not masking it or mustering courage but faith. What is one specific fear in your life right now, and what would it look like to replace it with active faith in God?  
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5. Pastor Giglio encourages us to 'name our Barakas' — the places where God came through. Can you identify a specific moment or place where God delivered you, and how does remembering it strengthen your faith for current struggles?  
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## Word Studies

בְּרָכָה

### Berakah

Hebrew

Blessing, benediction, praise. From the root 'barak' meaning to kneel or bless. The Valley of Berakah was named because it was the place where Judah praised and blessed the Lord after their miraculous deliverance.

*Usage: The Hebrew root appears over 400 times in the Old Testament. The Greek equivalent 'eulogia' appears 16 times in the New Testament.*

דָּרַשׁ

### darash

Hebrew

To seek, inquire, consult, demand. Indicates an intentional, determined pursuit — not casual inquiry but urgent seeking. Used in 2 Chronicles 20:3 when Jehoshaphat 'resolved to inquire' (darash) of the Lord.

*Usage: 164 times in the Old Testament. The Greek equivalent 'zeteo' appears 117 times in the New Testament.*

יָרָא

### yare

Hebrew

To fear, be afraid, to revere. Can describe both negative fear (dread of enemies) and positive fear (reverent awe of God). In 2 Chronicles 20:3 Jehoshaphat was 'alarmed' (yare), and in 20:29 the 'fear of God' (yare) came on surrounding kingdoms — showing the same word used for both human alarm and divine awe.

*Usage: Over 300 times in the Old Testament. The Greek equivalent 'phobeo' appears 95 times in the New Testament.*

## Cross References

### Exodus 14:13-14

Moses tells Israel at the Red Sea: 'Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today... The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.' This directly parallels the command given to Jehoshaphat — stand firm, do not fear, and let God fight.

### Isaiah 41:10

'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I

will uphold you with my righteous right hand.' This reinforces the sermon's theme that God strengthens those who fix their eyes on Him rather than on their circumstances.

### Proverbs 3:5-6

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.' Jehoshaphat's refusal to rely on his own military strength and his decision to seek God exemplifies this proverb.

### Romans 8:31

'If God is for us, who can be against us?' This New Testament declaration captures the essence of Jehoshaphat's faith — no coalition of armies can prevail when the sovereign God fights on behalf of His people.

### Philippians 4:6-7

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts.' This echoes Jehoshaphat's movement from alarm to prayer to supernatural peace.

## Further Reading

- **Goliath Must Fall: Winning the Battle Against Your Giants**  
*by Louie Giglio*
- **The Battle Belongs to the Lord: Overcoming Life's Struggles Through Worship**  
*by Jim Cymbala*
- **Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan to Serious, Specific, and Strategic Prayer**  
*by Priscilla Shirer*

## Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
2 Chronicles 20:1-3	Read Aloud	4 : 00	<i>After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some o...</i>
2 Chronicles 17:1-6	Read Aloud	6 : 40	<i>Jehoshaphat his son succeeded him as king and stre...</i>
2 Chronicles 20:6-12	Read Aloud	14 : 20	<i>Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the Go...</i>
2 Chronicles 20:15-17	Read Aloud	21 : 20	<i>He said: 'Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who liv...</i>
2 Chronicles 20:22-26	Read Aloud	28 : 20	<i>As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set amb...</i>
2 Chronicles 16:9	Read Aloud	39 : 10	<i>For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the eart...</i>
Psalms 56:3	Read Aloud	44 : 10	<i>When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.</i>