



Outnumbered

Some people measure the potential of their success solely based on numbers. Although they have a point, that is not the only way God can work victory in our lives. There are plenty of situations where God wrought victories for people with far fewer numbers than their enemies and you want to be aware of this to build your faith in trusting God. They were outnumbered but that could not stop our God. Solely looking at numbers is detrimental to experiencing the victory God can work in our lives. To God, we are a majority because He is with us. Even if we have little, if God is in it, it becomes much.

In this teaching, we will clearly see that God is not hindered by multitudes. He can deliver with a few, very little, or even none, and that we are on the side of the majority. Whoever has God on their side is a majority even though they may look physically outnumbered.

- A. 1 Samuel 24:2 Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.

Have you been in a situation where you are outnumbered and it looks like you have already lost before you even started? Saul had 3,000 (1 Samuel 24:2) while David had about 600 men according to 1 Samuel 23:13—a ratio of 5:1. It may look like he was surrounded by his enemies but was surrounded by the Lord who surrounded his enemies.

One with God is not a majority—it is a supermajority!

If God be for us, who can be against us?

- B. 1 Samuel 14:6 And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

- a) Here Jonathan asked his armorbearer to go with him to the garrison (station or Post) of the Philistines, just the two of them and he believed that the Lord would work for them even if they were fewer than the Philistines. He understood that God cannot be hindered by small or large numbers. He could deliver with few or many.
 - b) 1 Samuel 14:14 And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armourbearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were an half acre of land, which a yoke of oxen might plow.
 - i) Two men killed 20 men. The outnumbered—outnumbered the bigger numbered.
- C. 2 Kings 6:8 Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. 9 And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. 10 And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. 11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel? 12 And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber. 13 And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. 14 Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. 15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? 16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.
 - a) King of Syria thought he had a spy in his camp who was revealing their battle plans to the king of Israel. Every time they went out to attack Israel, they found Israel waiting for them. It was revealed to the king of Syria that Elisha the man of God in Israel was the one who was revealing his secrets and plans to the king of Israel. The Syrian king sent his men to go arrest Elisha.
 - b) Here is a powerful truth that we should not miss. The servant of Elisha was in the flesh. He was seeing things in the physical not in the unseen realm. If he were seeing with his spiritual eyes, he would not have panicked.

- i) God is with us and if we know and keep this in focus, we will not be falling apart even if everyone else is.

c) This army was outnumbered by a more powerful army that was also unseen.

D. Five loaves and two fishes

Matthew 14:17-21 And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. 18 He said, Bring them hither to me. 19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and broke, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. 20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. 21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

- a) What is five loaves and two fishes versus 5,000 men besides women and children unless God is in it? What was little or not enough became much because of Jesus. What was little became the majority only because of Jesus. When the Lord is on our side, we not only make a majority, but we also increase above all.
- b) You might be in a situation where you do not have enough. If you can give that over to the Lord, it will turn into more than enough.

E. Ethiopia's Army, Greater than One Million (1,000,300 Ethiopians), attacks Judah (580,000)

2 Chronicles 14

- a) Israel was outnumbered physically by 420,300 (42%) yet victory was on their side because the Lord was with them which made them a majority. To some people, they would have given up seeing the multitude of the Ethiopian army, but not Israel. Outnumbered Israel destroys its attackers.

F. Gideon's 300 Rise Up against 120,000 Midianites

Judges 7–8:21 (Judges 7:16, 20; 8:10)

Judges 7:16 And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. Judges 7:20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and broke the pitchers, and held the

lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon. Judges 8:10 Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and their hosts with them, about fifteen thousand men, all that were left of all the hosts of the children of the east: for there fell a hundred and twenty thousand men that drew sword.

- a) Gideon's 300 men with lamps, trumpets, and pitchers defeated 120, 000 men with swords.

G. Samson defeats his enemies and those of Israel.

Judges 14:5-6 Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

- a) The spirit of the Lord came upon Samson, and he rent (tore) a lion into pieces with his bare hands.

Judges 14:19 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

- a) Samson slew 30 men in Ashkelon. Samson was one versus 30 men. He was a majority because the Lord was with him.

Judges 15:15 And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.

- a) Samson with a jawbone of an ass, Samson slew one thousand men.

H. Israel's King Jeroboam Ambushes Judah and gets destroyed.

2 Chronicles 13; 400,000 (Judah) Vs 800,000 (Israel). The victory was for Judah.

- a) 2 Chronicles 13:3 And Abijah set the battle in array with an army of valiant men of war, even four hundred thousand chosen men: Jeroboam also set the battle in array against him with eight hundred thousand chosen men, being mighty men of valour.

- i) 400,000 King Abijah's men from Judah versus 800,000 men of King Jeroboam from Israel.
- b) 2 Chronicles 13:12 And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.
 - i) God is with us and is our captain no matter what we are facing or going through. No one fights against the Lord and prospers.
- c) 2 Chronicles 13:13 But Jeroboam caused an ambushment to come about behind them: so they were before Judah, and the ambushment was behind them. 14 And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind: and they cried unto the LORD, and the priests sounded with the trumpets. 15 Then the men of Judah gave a shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. 16 And the children of Israel fled before Judah: and God delivered them into their hand.
 - i) God smote the enemies of Judah although they were more.
- d) 2 Chronicles 13:17 And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter: so there fell down slain of Israel five hundred thousand chosen men.
 - i) 500,000 of the 800,000 King Jeroboam's men of Israel were killed.
- e) 2 Chronicles 13:18 Thus the children of Israel were brought under at that time, and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the LORD God of their fathers.
 - i) The reason the children of Judah prevailed is the reason all of us prevail. They prevailed because they relied (trusted and leaned) upon the Lord for support, help, and deliverance. This means if they relied on their own abilities and strength, they could not have prevailed. This also brings up a crucial truth.
 - ii) One of the reasons we do not prevail is that we have not been depending on and leaning on the Lord. We prevail based on whom we are leaning on. Whom we trust determines our victory.

- iii) 1 Samuel 2:9 He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.
 - o 1 Chronicles 5:20
 - o Psalm 22:4-5
 - o Nahum 1:7
 - f) 2 Chronicles 13:20 Neither did Jeroboam recover strength again in the days of Abijah: and the LORD struck him, and he died.
 - i) Your enemy(ies) shall not arise the second time. They have been utterly destroyed by the Lord and He has struck them dead. These enemies can be more than people. Satan, sickness, lack, loss, failure, destruction, and disease are all our enemies.
 - Nahum 1:9 What do ye imagine against the LORD? He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.
 - g) 2 Chronicles 13:21 But Abijah waxed mighty, and married fourteen wives, and begat twenty and two sons, and sixteen daughters.
 - i) Deuteronomy 17:14-17 When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; 15 Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother. 16 But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. 17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.
- I. The Assyrian Invasion by King Sennacherib – 2 Kings 18–19 (2 Chronicles 32:20–21) but were defeated by the angel of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 32:1-32 After these things, and the establishment thereof, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself. 2 And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem,

a) Hezekiah took Counsel of the princes and mighty men—not the LORD. We need to take counsel from the LORD. David took counsel from the Lord.

- i) 1 Samuel 23:1-4
- ii) 1 Samuel 30:7-8
- iii) 2 Samuel 2:1-2; 5:17-24

A. 2 Chronicles 32: 7 Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: **for there be more with us than with him:** (Emphasis mine)

a) Because the Lord is with us and on our side, we are bigger, more in number, and stronger than any enemy even if it does not look so in the natural. This is only true if we are speaking of and relying on the LORD—not our physical numbers. If we are not trusting the Lord, we shall be outnumbered.

b) We are in the majority with God on our side. Whoever has God on their side is a majority even though they may look physically outnumbered.

c) Hezekiah mentions that “with him (King Sennacherib) is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles.

- i) 2 Chronicles 32:8 With him is an arm of flesh; **but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles.** And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah. (Emphasis mine)

d) 1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

B. 2 Chronicles 32:9-19

9 After this did Sennacherib king of Assyria send his servants to Jerusalem, (but he himself laid siege against Lachish, and all his power with him,) unto Hezekiah king of Judah, and unto all Judah that were at Jerusalem, saying, 10 Thus saith Sennacherib king of Assyria, Whereon do ye trust, that ye abide in the siege in Jerusalem? 11 Doth not Hezekiah persuade you to give over yourselves to die by famine and by thirst, saying, The LORD our

God shall deliver us out of the hand of the king of Assyria? 12 Hath not the same Hezekiah taken away his high places and his altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall worship before one altar, and burn incense upon it? 13 Know ye not what I and my fathers have done unto all the people of other lands? were the gods of the nations of those lands any ways able to deliver their lands out of mine hand? 14 Who was there among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed, that could deliver his people out of mine hand, that your God should be able to deliver you out of mine hand? 15 Now therefore let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you on this manner, neither yet believe him: for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of mine hand, and out of the hand of my fathers: how much less shall your God deliver you out of mine hand? 16 And his servants spake yet more against the LORD God, and against his servant Hezekiah. 17 He wrote also letters to rail on the LORD God of Israel, and to speak against him, saying, As the gods of the nations of other lands have not delivered their people out of mine hand, so shall not the God of Hezekiah deliver his people out of mine hand. 18 Then they cried with a loud voice in the Jews' speech unto the people of Jerusalem that were on the wall, to affright them, and to trouble them; that they might take the city. 19 And they spake against the God of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth, which were the work of the hands of man. (Emphasis mine)

- a) King of Assyria Sennacherib sent his men to deliver "trash talk"—to strike fear in the hearts of the men and people with King Hezekiah so that they would desert him and rebel against him. This was a strategy by the devil.
 - b) King Sennacherib also spoke evil and blasphemed the God of Israel.
 - c) King Sennacherib spoke against the people and Hezekiah, but Hezekiah went to the LORD. The LORD Intervened and sent an angel who cut off the army of the Assyrian king. However, King Sennacherib was ashamed (Jeremiah 20:11). **185,000 were killed by the angel of the Lord.**
 - i) King Hezekiah did not have to fight. There was no loss of lives in his camp.
 - d) The LORD protected Hezekiah and all the children of Israel in Jerusalem. He was their guide on every side.
- J. 2 Chronicles 20 It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. ² Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in

Hazazontamar, which is Engedi. ¹³ And all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. ¹⁴ Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the Lord in the midst of the congregation; ¹⁵ And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

- a) Be not afraid of the great multitude or numbers. The battle is the Lord's and we are a majority if He is on our side.

K. 1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

- a) Who is in us? The Lord is. God lives on the inside of every born-again believer. He is greater than all including Satan. And because He is in us and with us, we become a majority. We can defeat any adversary or enemy because God who is on the inside of us is greater than all things and people. We have more numbers with us by just having ONE!

L. King Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20)

2 Chronicles 20:2-30 2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a **great multitude** against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi. 15 And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. 17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you. 18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD. 19 And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high. 20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. 21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers

unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. 22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. 23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. 24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped. 25 And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much. 26 And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day. 27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies. 28 And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD. 29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel. 30 So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.

- a) What a classic example of the power of God. The Children of Judah through Jehoshaphat's leadership set up singers and worshippers to go ahead of the army.
- b) And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. 23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. 24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

M. Unbelievable spoils

"And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which

they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much."

- a) The enemies of Judah could have thought they were more, stronger, and better but although the children of Judah were outnumbered, God pulled off a victory in their favor and they defeated the enemy without firing a single shot or losing a single person. This was a victory of victories.

N. David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

- a) The story of Goliath is another that exhibits the power of God.
- b) David was smaller, less experienced, a youth with no military background and/or experience, yet he prevailed and greatly triumphed over Goliath who had all the odds in his favor.
- c) David who was outnumbered by Goliath because God was on his side outnumbered him, put Goliath's lights out and sent him to hell.

O. Battle of Jericho (Joshua 6)

Joshua 6:3-5 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. 4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. 5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

- a) Who could have thought that you could just march around a wall for seven days, priests and it crumbles?
- b) This was a miracle that could only have been the power of God. God pulled off another victory in favor of the outnumbered through a strategy that had never been seen before in the history of warfare.