

# The Valley of Berakah

## 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

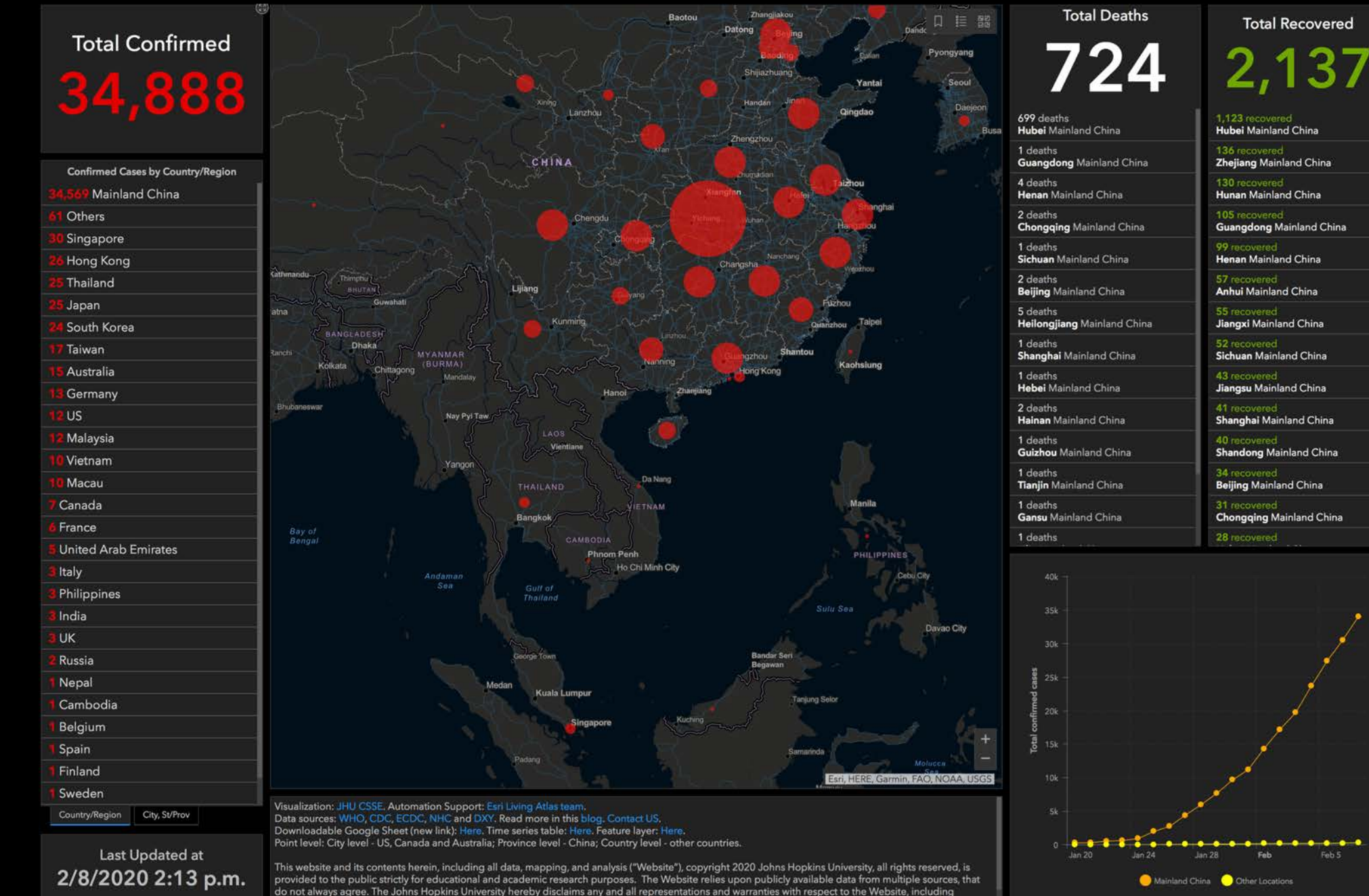
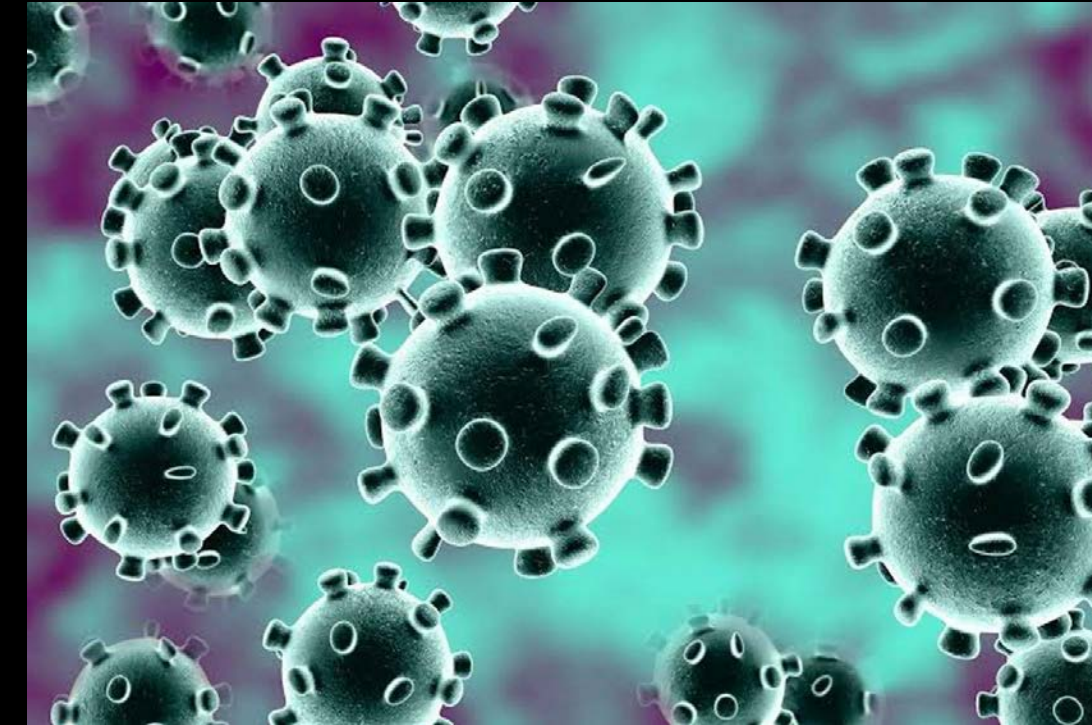


# DORSCON ALERT LEVELS

(Disease Outbreak Response System Condition)

	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
<b>Nature of Disease</b>	Disease is mild <b>OR</b> Disease is severe but does not spread easily from person to person (e.g. MERS, H7N9)	Disease is severe and spreads easily from person to person but is occurring outside Singapore. <b>OR</b> Disease is spreading in Singapore but is (a) Typically mild i.e only slightly more severe than seasonal influenza. Could be severe in vulnerable groups. (e.g. H1N1 pandemic) <b>OR</b> (b) being contained	Disease is severe <b>AND</b> spreads easily from person to person, but disease has not spread widely in Singapore and is being contained (e.g. SARS experience in Singapore)	Disease is severe <b>AND</b> is spreading widely
<b>Impact on Daily Life</b>	Minimal disruption e.g. border screening, travel advice	Minimal disruption e.g. additional measures at border and/or healthcare settings expected, higher work and school absenteeism likely	Moderate disruption e.g. quarantine, temperature screening, visitor restrictions at hospitals	Major disruption e.g. school closures, work from home orders, significant number of deaths.
<b>Advice to Public</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be socially responsible: if you are sick, stay at home</li> <li>Maintain good personal hygiene</li> <li>Look out for health advisories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be socially responsible: if you are sick, stay at home</li> <li>Maintain good personal hygiene</li> <li>Look out for health advisories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be socially responsible: if you are sick, stay at home</li> <li>Maintain good personal hygiene</li> <li>Look out for health advisories</li> <li>Comply with control measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be socially responsible: if you are sick, stay at home</li> <li>Maintain good personal hygiene</li> <li>Look out for health advisories</li> <li>Comply with control measures</li> <li><b>Practise social distancing: avoid crowded areas</b></li> </ul>

Source: Ministry of Health







## 2 Chronicles 20:1-2

20 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites<sup>[a]</sup> came to wage war against Jehoshaphat.

<sup>2</sup> Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom,<sup>[b]</sup> from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar" (that is, En Gedi).





## 2 Chronicles 20:3-4

<sup>3</sup>Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. <sup>4</sup>The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

## **Prayer in the Face of Crisis**

## 2 Chronicles 20:5-9

<sup>5</sup>Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard <sup>6</sup>and said:“Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. <sup>7</sup>Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? <sup>8</sup>They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, <sup>9</sup>‘If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.’

## Prayer in the Face of Crisis

- **Seek God, not a Solution**

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## Psalms 91:1-6

<sup>1</sup> **Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.** <sup>[a]</sup>  
<sup>2</sup> **I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."**  
<sup>3</sup> **Surely he will save you  
from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.**  
<sup>4</sup> **He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.**  
<sup>5</sup> **You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,**  
<sup>6</sup> **nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.**

## Prayer in the Face of Crisis

- **Seek God, not a Solution**

## 2 Chronicles 20:10-12

<sup>10</sup> “But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. <sup>11</sup> See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. <sup>12</sup> Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

## Prayer in the Face of Crisis

- **Seek God, not a Solution**
- **Hope in God, not our Strength**

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## Hebrews 12:1-2

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

## Prayer in the Face of Crisis

- **Seek God, not a Solution**
- **Hope in God, not our Strength**



## 2 Chronicles 20:13-17

<sup>13</sup> All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord.

<sup>14</sup> Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly.

<sup>15</sup> He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. <sup>16</sup> Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. <sup>17</sup> You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.'"

## Prayer in the Face of Crisis

- **Seek God, not a Solution**
- **Hope in God, not our Strength**
- **Fight with God, not on our Own**

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## Romans 8:31-39

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be <sup>[i]</sup> against us? ...<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?... <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.<sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Prayer in the Face of Crisis

- **Seek God, not a Solution**
- **Hope in God, not our Strength**
- **Fight with God, not on our Own**



# Corporate Prayer

- Seek God, not a Solution
  - Humble ourselves
  - Call upon his Character, Promises and Past Actions
- Hope in God, not our Strength
  - Reject fear, uncertainty and panic
  - Fix our eyes on Jesus
  - Fight with God, not on our Own
- Ask God to Fight for us
  - Hedge of protection
  - Contained local spread
  - Wisdom and discernment for leaders

## 2 Chronicles 20:18-19

<sup>18</sup> Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

## Praise in Response to Crisis

- Choose **Worship** not **Worry**



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<sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers,<sup>[a]</sup> by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world,<sup>[c]</sup> but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.<sup>[d]</sup>

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## 2 Chronicles 20:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.”

<sup>21</sup> After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his<sup>[c]</sup> holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

“Give thanks to the Lord,  
for his love endures forever.”

## Praise in Response to Crisis

- **Choose Worship not Worry**
- **Choose Worship not War**



## 2 Chronicles 20:22-26

<sup>22</sup> As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. <sup>23</sup> The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

<sup>24</sup> When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped. <sup>25</sup> So Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing<sup>[d]</sup> and also articles of value—more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it. <sup>26</sup> On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berakah, where they praised the Lord. This is why it is called the Valley of Berakah<sup>[e]</sup> to this day.

## Peace After the Crisis

- **From Crisis to Blessing**



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The Valley of Berakah  
The Valley of Blessing

## Peace After the Crisis

- From Crisis to Blessing





## 2 Chronicles 20:27-28

<sup>27</sup> Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the Lord had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies.<sup>28</sup> They entered Jerusalem and went to the temple of the Lord with harps and lyres and trumpets.

## Peace After the Crisis

- **From Crisis to Blessing**
- **From Fear to Rejoicing**

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## Isaiah 61:3

<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.<sup>[c]</sup>

## Peace After the Crisis

- **From Crisis to Blessing**
- **From Fear to Rejoicing**



## 2 Chronicles 20:29-30

<sup>29</sup>The fear of God came on all the surrounding kingdoms when they heard how the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. <sup>30</sup>And the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.

## Peace After the Crisis

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- **From Fear to Rejoicing**
- **From Panic to Peace**

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## Hebrews 4:9-11

<sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup> for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

<sup>11</sup> Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

## Peace After the Crisis

- **From Crisis to Blessing**
- **From Fear to Rejoicing**
- **From Panic to Peace**





## Prayer in the Face of Crisis

- Seek **God**, not a **Solution**
- Hope in **God**, not our **Strength**
- Fight with **God**, not on our **Own**

## Praise in Response to Crisis

- Choose **Worship** not **Worry**
- Choose **Worship** not **War**

## Peace After the Crisis

- From **Crisis** to **Blessing**
- From **Fear** to **Rejoicing**
- From **Panic** to **Peace**

