

## **Song Story #17 – “Rise Up”**

Years ago, I was reading through the Bible and I was in the book of II Chronicles. Much of what’s in the books of Chronicles is very historic and detailed and frankly, pretty dry. But then I came across this amazing story in II Chronicles 20. It tells the story of how three nations had surrounded the little tribe of Judah – whose king was Jehoshaphat. It tells how, after seeing that they were outnumbered and had no chance, the King directed the people to seek the Lord and have a sacred assembly. And there a prophet spoke out and told them that God would fight the battle for them. So, Jehoshaphat believed the words of the prophet and sent singers in front of their army to sing “Give thanks to the Lord for His love endures forever” as they marched toward what would potentially be a suicide mission. But the Scripture then, amazingly, says that as they sang the Lord set ambushes against their enemies and they all killed one another and when Judah came over the hill, they found that all their enemies were dead. This happened in the context of worshipping God.

The other story is from Acts 16 in the New Testament. In this story, Paul and Silas were beaten, stripped naked and tossed into the inner cell of a Roman prison. But while they were in there in those terrible circumstances, they were singing to the Lord. And as they were singing, the earth shook and the prison doors opened and they were freed.

These two stories are so powerful to me and they give examples of the power of worshipping God – even in the worst of circumstances. So, I felt like this driving, joyous, upbeat music served as a great vehicle to tell those stories and call Christians to “Rise up and lift up Jesus! ~ Dan Adler

### **Rise Up – Words & Music by Dan Adler**

Chorus: Rise up and lift up Jesus! Rise up and lift up the Lord!  
Rise up and lift up Jesus! Rise up and lift up the Lord!

1. Paul and Silas in a pagan town were preachin’ the Truth to everyone they found  
But when they cast a demon from a psychic slave  
They were beaten and shackled in a prison cave  
But around midnight in that awful place  
They raised their voices in a song of praise  
And as they sang God broke their chains  
He opened the doors and he them free so (To Chorus)

2. Jehoshaphat was in an awful mess  
He cried out to God in his great distress  
He said “We got our enemies on every side”  
God said, “Don’t be afraid, ‘cause the battle’s mine”  
So, they bowed in worship and they stood up and praised  
And sent the singers out to lead the way  
And as praised God’s holy name  
God won that war and gave the victory so (to Chorus)

Bridge: Give thanks unto the Lord for His love endures forever  
Give thanks unto the Lord for His mercy never ends (repeat) (to Chorus)