

2 Kings 3

War

I. Moab Rebels Against Israel

1 Now Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years.

- **Elisha:** Prophet now in in Samaria capital of Northern Kingdom
- **Jehoram:**
 1. King of Northern Kingdom
 2. Son of Ahab and Jezebel [Dysfunctional family?]
 3. Brother of previous King Ahaziah [reigned 2 years then died]
 4. Will reign 12 Years

2 And [Jehoram of the north] did evil in the sight of the Lord, but not like his father and mother; for he put away the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had made. 3 Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; he did not depart from them.

- **King Jehoram:**
 1. Did evil...but not as much as Ahab/Jezebel
 2. Got rid of Pillar of Baal
 3. Continued worship Golden Calves of Jeroboam
- Why are people in Hades still awaiting Final Judgment?

Hebrews 9:27 ... it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment...

Our fate is sealed the millisecond we die; i.e. Heaven or Hell but...
The Degree of Punishment for wicked not established until White Throne Judgment...

Revelation 20:6 [Read] Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power....

- **Born once die twice:** Physical and Spiritual. You must be born again
- **Born twice die once:** He who believes in Me though he may die he shall live.

Second Death: Final Judgment at the White Throne

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were **judged according to their works**, by the things which were written in the books. **13** The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. **14** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

- **Degrees of Hell?**

1. Wicked are in Hades awaiting White Throne Judgement
2. Everyone in Hades will eventually end up eternally in Hell
3. WTJ: Judged according to their works; what degree of eternal punishment
4. **Question?** How many people were affected by their sin even after their death
 - **Cult Leaders:** Charles Russel, Joseph Smith, Mary B Eddie, EG White
 - Jeroboam even after his death is leading people to hell with him

Luke 12:47 [The...] servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be **beaten with few**. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

- **Much given much required:**

1. How many times was the cult leader told the truth...and persisted?
2. How many times was the dictator given the Gospel and denied it?
3. How many times was Jeroboam rebuked by Elijah...and persisted?

V3 [Jehoram...] persisted in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who **had made Israel sin**; he did not depart from them.

Luke 17:1 [Jesus] said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses [sin/stumbling blocks] **should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!**"

- **Jehoram King of the North:** Evil but not quite as evil as mom and dad...

4 Now **Mesha king of Moab** was a sheepbreeder, and he regularly paid the king of Israel one hundred thousand lambs and the wool of one hundred thousand rams.

2 Kings 1:1 Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab.

- **Mesha:** King of Moab and a successful Sheep breeder
 1. Moab from incestuous relationship daughter and Lot [daughters plot]
 2. Perpetual Enemy but at time subservient paying tribute/taxes to Israel
 - 100,000 Lambs per year
 - Wool of 100,000 Rams per year

5 But it happened, when Ahab died, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

- Moab rebelled against King Ahaziah after his father Ahab died
- Moab ramped up rebellion against Ahaziah's Brother **King Jehoram...**

6 So King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel. 7 Then he went and sent to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, saying, "The

king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?" And he said, "I will go up; I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."

King of Moab stops paying taxes so King of Israel plans attack

- **King Jehoram leaves Capital**

1. Gathers "all Israel"; i.e. fighting men
2. Goes south to Jehoshaphat
3. Out of chronological order: This is before Jehoram of South
4. King of Israel asks King of Judah to fight his enemies

Sounds familiar?

We remember Jehoram's father Ahab asked Jehoshaphat to help fight his enemies [Syria]

- **Didn't go well...**

1. King Ahab dressed Jehoshaphat in his kingly clothes
2. Enemies thought Jehoshaphat was Ahab shot him with arrow
3. God rescues him but doesn't learn lesson: **Nice is not always right**

- Jehoshaphat of south is kind and godly but "not so smart" agrees help north again...

This time helping Ahab's son Jehoram of the North fight his battles

[...whose sister Athaliah married Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram of the south]

- **Suffice to say:** Weird family ties between Kings of South and Kings of North

8 Then he said, "Which way shall we go up?" And he answered, "By way of the Wilderness of Edom."

Jehoram King of Israel the Northern Kingdom/Jehoshaphat King of Judah Southern Kingdom

- **Jehoram asks advice from Jehoshaphat**
- Advice: Attack Moab from south through desert

9 So the king of Israel [Jehoram] went with the king of Judah [Jehoshaphat] and the king of Edom

- **3 Amigo's?**

1. **Jehoram** King of Israel the Northern Kingdom
2. **Jehoshaphat** King of Judah the Southern Kingdom
3. **King of Edom:**
 - **1 Kings 22:47** stated "no king in Edom" thus Recently crowned
 - Edom descendant of Esau...i.e. picture of the flesh, sinful nature of man

Two Kings of Israel... hanging out with the flesh?

9b... and they marched on that roundabout route seven days; and there was no water for the army, nor for the animals that followed them.

- **Flesh led project:** No prayer/No direction/No instruction from Lord
 1. Round and round seven days
 2. No water for fight
 3. Desperation sets in...

10 And the king of Israel said, "Alas! For the Lord has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab."

- Lord in text should be **LORD; i.e. YHWH**

Only time Jehoram used Name of True God is to blame Him for problems he caused himself
Guilty conscience? God is judging us.

- God brought us together to die
- I thought this was your idea Jehoram?
- Hits thumb with finger doesn't yell Baal-Zebub...but blames God

The world brings up the True God at every disaster
How about when baby is born, when kids smile, when get new house, sun rises, healed, etc.

- We are going to die because YHWH is mean...why should He help you?
 1. **Have you given your life to Him?**
 2. **Have you submitted to Him?**
 3. **Are you serving Him?**

- West Wing when President's son dying walks into church yelling at crucifix...

"You b. You b. ! I've served you all my life and this is what I get...this is what you do!!!"

Note he was looking at a representation of Jesus on the cross for his sins

No...you've never served Him. Godless...never gave Him a thought until trouble.

11 But **Jehoshaphat said**, "Is there no prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of the Lord by him?"

- Same thing Jehoshaphat asked Ahab, Jehoram's father, when fighting his battle...

Is there no man of the Living God to give direction for the battle?

Ahab: "One, Micaiah, but I hate him because he tells the truth." Throw him in prison

- **Jehoshaphat to Jehoram:**

1. No water, no direction, flesh is leading the way
2. Let's get God's Word on this endeavor. You think?

Jehoram believed that God was to be avoided because of the crises, while Jehoshaphat

believed that God should be **sought because of the crisis**. [Guzik]

Prayer/Seeking face of God should not be the last resort...but the start of our day!

“Is there no prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of the Lord by him?”

11b...So one of the servants of the king of Israel answered and said, “Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah.”

- Elijah’s servant **Elisha is here**

12 And Jehoshaphat said, “The word of the Lord is with him.”

The Word of the Lord is with Elisha...Good News!

- **Nice to hear people say...**
 1. He’s really funny
 2. She’s really interesting

Better yet...**The Word of the Lord is with him/her/them. That is what changes lives
This is what God says about your situation/trial/challenge...**

- **Key:** We must know the Word of the Lord to have the Word with us!
- **The Word of the Lord is with Elisha:** Great compliment

12b...So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

- Three Kings go to meet the prophet...**went down to him**
- It is wise to seek the Lord...

Proverbs 8:17 [Wisdom personified] I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

Humility rewarded after a short/sharp rebuke to Jehoram...

13 Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, “What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother.”

Don’t act so chummy; I have nothing to do with you and your idolatry:

- Go to calf-gods like your Ahab and Jezebel mother
- Go to Baal-Zebub like your deceased klutz of a brother Ahaziah

13b...But the king of Israel said to him, “No, for the Lord has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab.”

- No this is not my fault but the Lord is doing this!

Elisha’s already disgusted with Jehoram’s hypocrisy...

14 And Elisha said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you."

- **Do you know who you are talking about?**
- You're talking about My God
 1. The **Living God**.
 2. The **God before whom stand**

Stop using His Name in vain as if you know Him...
If it weren't for Jehoshaphat I would pretend you weren't even here

Jehoshaphat good king. His Father Asa was a good king.

- **NOTE:** Prophet does not even acknowledge King of Edom as even being present
- **Application: We are not even to acknowledge the flesh but reckon it dead**

Romans 6:11 ... reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- **Reckon:** gr. lo-gē'-zo-mī; count, calculate, consider **yourself DEAD to sin**
 1. Edom came from Esau: Both a type of the flesh or sinful nature

Hebrews 12:16b... [Don't be like...] profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. [Driven/motivated by selfish desires not God]

2. King Herod was not a Jew but an Idumean; i.e. **Edomite**

Tried to get Jesus to defend Himself...

Luke 23:8 Now when Herod [Antipas] saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. 9 Then he questioned Him with many words, **but [Jesus] answered him nothing.**

- Flesh screams at us "Do what I say...answer men?"
- We are to act as though we don't hear/don't see

Elisha blows off Jehoram...and does not even acknowledge King of Edom
Righteously Ticked-off

15 But now bring me a musician."

- Bring me something to calm my nerves
- Bring me a someone to lead worship

"This he requires, that his mind, which had been disturbed and inflamed with holy anger at the sight of wicked Jehoram, might be composed, and cheered, and united within itself, and that he might be excited to the more fervent prayer to God, and joyfully praising him; whereby he was prepared to receive the prophetic announcement." [Poole]

15b...Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the Lord came upon [Elisha].

- Then it happened...Spirit of the Lord empowers Elisha as He worships
- Worship puts things in the right perspective: **God is God and I am not.**

Psalm 96:9 Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. Worship designed to bring us to the Living God

- As we humble ourselves in worship God draws near...

James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." **10...**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- Elisha emptied of self. God Speaks...

16 And he said, "**Thus says the Lord:** 'Make this valley full of ditches.' 17 For thus says the Lord: 'You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink.'

Thus, says the Lord...

- Dig ditches all over this valley [dried up river bed]
- The Lord will fill ditches with water for **2 Purposes**
 1. **Filled Ditches:** You and animals can drink
 2. **Filled Ditches:** Also will be instrumental in victory over Moab

LORD's economy is very efficient

18 And **this is a simple matter in the sight of the Lord;** He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand.

**No water, no direction, worn out and on our way to battle?
Elisha: This is a simple matter in the sight of the Lord**

- **Does not matter what the trial;** "This is a simple matter in the sight of the Lord"

Small problem in light of a huge God...when we trust Him and do what He says

19 Also you shall attack every fortified city and every choice city, and shall cut down every good tree, and stop up every spring of water, and ruin every good piece of land with stones."

I'll do My part. This is your part...

- **Dig ditches**

"If we expect to obtain the Holy Spirit's blessing, we must prepare for his reception. 'Make

this valley full of trenches' is an order which is given me this morning for the members of this church; make ready for the Holy Ghost's power; be prepared to receive that which he is about to give; each man in his place and each woman in her sphere, make the whole of this church full of trenches for the reception of the divine water-floods." [Spurgeon]

- Attack every military city
- Attack their most valued cities
- Make the land of Moab uninhabitable
 1. Cut down every good tree
 2. Plug up every source of water
 3. Ruin farmland with rocks
- **NOTE:** Jehoram and Jehoshaphat brought their armies...

20 Now it happened in the morning, when the grain offering was offered, that suddenly water came by way of Edom, and the land was filled with water.

- Grain Sacrifice offered

Dug ditches day before.... Suddenly/Surprisingly water came by way of the desert

God often moves us to do things that may or may not make much sense for the moment, but they are things that will prepare us for what He will do in the future. [Guzik]

- Things like reading the Bible/praying for Holy Spirit

One day suddenly/surprisingly we understand...but we must dig even when tired

- Things may seem dry until the next day when refreshing comes...
- **Water:** Word and the Spirit
 1. Read Leviticus, Isaiah, Revelation and you will one day get it.
 2. Keep praying for God's Spirit

God will do His part: Speak to you. **Do your part:** Keep reading/praying don't give up
Suddenly/Surprisingly refreshing will come...

John 7:37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If **anyone thirsts**, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will **flow rivers of living water.**" 39 But this **He spoke concerning the Spirit...**

- **Might not get it at first...**keep digging

John 13:7 [Jesus as washes Peter's feet] "What I am doing you do not understand now, but **you will know after this.**"

John 14:26 He will teach you all things, and **bring to your remembrance** all things that I said to you.

- Suddenly water came and filled the valley...

21 And when all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them, all who were able to bear arms and older were gathered; and they stood at the border.

- Moabites camp on their own goal line facing three Amigos and their armies...

22 Then [Moab] rose up early in the morning, and the sun was shining on the water; and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood. 23 And they said, "**This is blood**; the kings have surely struck swords and have killed one another; now therefore, Moab, to the spoil!"

- **God sends a Strong Delusion...**

1. Valley filled with water
2. Sunrise shines dark red on the valley of water
3. Moab thinks armies of three kings have slaughtered each other

Work is finished...let get them

24 So when [Moab] came to the camp of Israel, Israel rose up and attacked the Moabites, so that they fled before them; and [Israel] entered their land, killing the Moabites. 25 Then they destroyed the cities, and each man threw a stone on every good piece of land and filled it; and they stopped up all the springs of water and cut down all the good trees. But they left the stones of Kir Haraseth intact. However the slingers surrounded and attacked it.

- **Did what the LORD commanded:**

1. Stormed gates of city
2. Made land uninhabitable

26 And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was **too fierce for him**, he took with him **seven hundred men** who drew swords, to break through to the king of Edom, but they could not.

- **King of Moab:** Moab Lit. "of his father"

1. Perceives the battle too fierce/be defeated
2. Takes 700 military guy's and his son; heir to throne
3. **Purpose:** Break through the line...but they could not

Desperate and godless
...not a good combination when faced with hard choices

27 Then he took his eldest son who **would have reigned** in his place, and **offered him as a burnt offering upon the wall**; and there was great indignation against Israel. So they departed from him and **returned to their own land.**

- **One of the ugliest scenes in all Scripture**

1. King of Moab and a Sheep breeder
2. Desperate godless man frightened like a cornered animal
3. Does the unthinkable...
4. Offers son as burnt sacrifice to demon Chemosh on a wall in front of all

People are appalled: Moabites, Judah, even Edomites can't believe their eyes
That a King could be so desperate that he would sacrifice his Pride and Joy for self-gain

- Even the All-knowing Creator was metaphorically appalled/taken back...

Jeremiah 7:31 And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to **burn their sons and their daughters in the fire**, which I did not command, nor **did it come into My heart.**

Jeremiah 19:5 ...they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, nor **did it come into My mind...**

- Judah and Israel would be guilty of same...

Jeremiah 32:35 And they built the high places of Baal which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, **to cause Judah to sin.**

- Great indignation against Israel? People getting sick. Everyone went home

Blame Israel for putting the King of Edom in this desperate position?

Application: Sacrificing our Pride and Joy

- **Mothers:** Abortion; Sacrificing what could have been Pride and Joy
- **Father's:** Selfish Ambition: Sacrificing Pride and Joy for our own selfishness
 1. **God of Sex:** Adultery and Pornography make for a bad father
 2. **God of Laziness:** Too tired to talk to our kids
 3. **God of Greed:** Too much time at work...then their gone
 4. **God of Indulgence:** Alcohol/Drugs. To stone to care
 5. **God of Self:** Divorce/Apathy/**ABANDONMENT not worth our time**

Time: When we keep it and don't give it...
...we are sacrificing what should be our pride/joy

- **Some of us have been hung up, hung out to dry by our earthly fathers**

Good news...We have a perfect Father

Psalms 68: 5 A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. **6** God sets the solitary in families...

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received

the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "**Abba, Father.**"

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "**Abba, Father!**"

Let's start doing fathering right this generation