

## 2 Kings 3

King James Version (KJV)

**3** Now Jehoram the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. (Jehoram = whom God has exalted – ironic) (He was Ahaziah's brother)

<sup>2</sup> And he wrought evil in the sight of the LORD; but not like his father, and like his mother: for he put away the image of Baal that his father had made. (He got rid of the Baal worship, but not all of the idols)

<sup>3</sup> Nevertheless he cleaved unto the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom. (He continued the golden calf worship that Jeroboam started. He may have thought that he was pleasing God. He wasn't)

<sup>4</sup> And Mesha king of Moab was a sheepmaster, and rendered unto the king of Israel an hundred thousand lambs, and an hundred thousand rams, with the wool. (The wool of 100,000 rams – better translation) (Mesha's name was found on a historic artifact called – The Moabite Stone)

<sup>5</sup> But it came to pass, when Ahab was dead, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel. (They had been in financial subjugation to Israel since the days of David)

<sup>6</sup> And king Jehoram went out of Samaria the same time, and numbered all Israel. (Preparing for war; mustering the troops)

<sup>7</sup> And he went and sent to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, The king of Moab hath rebelled against me: wilt thou go with me against Moab to battle? And he said, I will go up: I am as thou art, my people as thy people, and my horses as thy horses. (This guy never learns. He almost died by Ahab's treachery at Ramothgilead)

2Chronicles-20 (Gangs from Edom and Ammon were also attacking Judah in skirmishes. Maybe Jehoshaphat decided to team up with Israel and go after all three rebellions)

<sup>8</sup> And he said, Which way shall we go up? And he answered, The way through the wilderness of Edom. (The other way was north of the Dead Sea, crossing Jordan, then south to Moab) (Did anyone ask God? No)

<sup>9</sup> So the king of Israel went, and the king of Judah, and the king of Edom: and they fetched a compass of seven days' journey: and there was no water for the host, and for the cattle that followed them. (Poor planning because they didn't inquire of God)

<sup>10</sup> And the king of Israel said, Alas! that the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab! (God didn't send them. They never even asked Him. Yet Jehoram is blaming God for this disaster)

<sup>11</sup> But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah. (A figure of speech meaning that he served Elijah)

<sup>12</sup> And Jehoshaphat said, The word of the LORD is with him. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him. (Jehoshaphat is wising up, but is it too late?)

<sup>13</sup> And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab. (God never called them together to fight Moab. They did it to themselves. Jehoram's continuous blaming God is asking for trouble)

<sup>14</sup> And Elisha said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee. (God had lost all regard for Israel and for Jehoram. HE will help them only because He still regards Jehoshaphat, who is marching with Israel)

<sup>15</sup> But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. (Minstrel – a harp player)

<sup>16</sup> And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches.

<sup>17</sup> For thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts. (God will provide the water for the men and the animals)

<sup>18</sup> And this is but a light thing in the sight of the LORD: he will deliver the Moabites also into your hand. (This is an easy thing for God to do)

<sup>19</sup> And ye shall smite every fenced city, and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree, and stop all wells of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones. (God wants Moab gone. These people were sacrificing their own children to Molech by burning them alive. They were descendants of Lot. They knew of Yahoveh; so they were not innocent. They deliberately chose this barbaric Molech worship)

<sup>20</sup> And it came to pass in the morning, when the meat offering was offered, that, behold, there came water by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water. (A flood, provided by God)

(You would think that that would convince Jehoram to put away the golden calves and return the people of Israel to Yahoveh – it didn't)

<sup>21</sup> And when all the Moabites heard that the kings were come up to fight against them, they gathered all that were able to put on armour, and upward, and stood in the border.

<sup>22</sup> And they rose up early in the morning, and the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood: (The red earth in this area made the water look red. Also, at sunrise, sometimes the sunlight looks red. The water suddenly being there in the desert, on that day was divine intervention. The appearance of the water as red was nature. God created nature and uses it as He sees fit)

<sup>23</sup> And they said, This is blood: the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil.

<sup>24</sup> And when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose up and smote the Moabites, so that they fled before them: but they went forward smiting the Moabites, even in their country. (They pursued Moab back into their own country)

<sup>25</sup> And they beat down the cities, and on every good piece of land cast every man his stone, and filled it; and they stopped all the wells of water, and felled all the good trees: only in Kirharaseth left they the stones thereof; howbeit the slingers went about it, and smote it. (Howbeit = until – bad translation)

<sup>26</sup> And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew swords, to break through even unto the king of Edom: but they could not.

<sup>27</sup> Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land. (He sacrificed his own son to Molech also called Kemosh. That is why God wanted these perverts dead)

(Israel once again didn't follow through with God's instructions, and left some of Moab standing. Years later, Moab will return and take many cities of Israel)