

Ditches in the Desert – 2 Kings 3

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- I. Introduction
- II. Key Thought – Sometimes God’s people forget God, but when they remember Him, God helps them
- III. Jehoram – The wicked king who forgot God
 - a. Incomplete religious reforms –v. 1-3
 - i. Better than his father Ahab
 - ii. Better than his brother Ahaziah
 - iii. Still wicked
 - b. His problem – Moab rebels –v. 4-5
 - c. Seeks to subdue Moab again – v. 6-9
 - i. Musters the people
 - ii. Gathers allies
 1. Judah
 2. Edom
 - iii. Takes counsel
 1. Which way to go
 2. Jehoshaphat helps
 - d. But does not seek God’s approval or counsel
 - e. Difficulties arise – v. 9-10
 - i. The Edom wilderness is very difficult
 - ii. They in danger of perishing with thirst
 - iii. If they survive the wilderness, they are in danger of having to face Moab in a very weak state and be defeated
 - iv. What went wrong?
 1. God has let us down!
 - v. Really?!
 1. God who gave no command for this expedition
 2. Who was not consulted about whether to go or not
 3. Was not consulted about which way to go
 4. Who never entered into the Jehoram’s thoughts until thing went wrong
 5. And then only as someone to blame for their misfortune
 6. God is responsible?
 7. How often God is blames for the consequences of a person’s own wrong choices!
- IV. Jehoshaphat – The godly king who forgot God
 - a. A righteous man
 - i. One major failing – he tended to ally himself with wicked men and get involved in their calamity
 1. Ahab – Nearly was killed at Ramoth-Gilead

- a. I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses – 1 Kings 22:4
 - b. That is too close!
 - 2. Married his son to Ahab's daughter
 - a. That will prove disastrous to future generations of Judah
 - 3. Now has allied himself with Ahab's son Jehoram
 - a. A wicked king
 - b. Who appears to have forgotten God exists except as someone to blame when your plans go wrong
- b. He also has forgotten God
 - i. He required Ahab to inquire of God BEFORE they started the expedition to Ramoth-Gilead
 - ii. There is no request for God's counsel here
 - iii. He advises the route they should take without asking for God's approval or guidance
 - iv. But when Jehoram is discouraged and blames God
 - v. Jehoshaphat remembers God – v. 11-12
 - vi. What a good thing he did!
- c. They consult God – v. 13-15
 - i. Neither of the kings thought to include a prophet, or priest or anyone else to provide spiritual guidance on this trip
 - 1. HOWEVER, God has provided what they did not think they needed
 - 2. Elisha is there
 - ii. The three kings go to Elisha
 - 1. Elisha rebukes Jehoram
 - 2. But recognizes Jehoshaphat
 - 3. He will seek God's counsel for them
- d. God's counsel – I will provide v. 16-19
 - i. Water
 - 1. Without wind or rain
 - ii. Victory
 - 1. In some unnamed manner
 - iii. Conditions
 - 1. Dig ditches to hold the water
 - 2. Required humility
 - 3. Required faith
 - 4. Required sweat
- e. When God is remembered, God provides
 - i. Water – v. 20
 - 1. Like Hagar and Ishmael
 - 2. Like the Israelites in the desert
 - 3. Like Elijah at Mt. Carmel
 - 4. Like Noah in the flood
 - 5. God likes to save His people by water

- ii. Victory by water
 - 1. Like Moses at the Red Sea
 - 2. Like Joshua facing the Canaanite kings at Gibeon
 - 3. Like Deborah and Barak fighting Sisera's army
 - 4. God likes giving his people victory by water

V. Application

a. Remembering God

- i. We expect the wicked to forget God
 - 1. Or only acknowledge Him as someone to blame when their own human plans go bad
- ii. But we expect the righteous to always remember God
 - 1. In making decisions
 - 2. In times of trial
 - 3. At all times
- iii. When the righteous forget to make God part of their plans, they are like those mentioned in Titus
 - 1. They profess to know God
 - 2. But in works they deny him – Tit. 1:16
 - 3. Faith without works is dead

b. Preparing for God's blessings

- i. Digging ditches in the desert is hard work!
- ii. So is preparing for God's blessings
- iii. But it is worthwhile work
- iv. Preparing
 - 1. Receive His words
 - 2. Do His will, whatever it might be
 - 3. Worship Him

c. God still saves through water today

- i. Saves - 1 Pet 3:21
- ii. The water of baptism
- iii. Made effective by the blood of Jesus Christ

VI. Conclusion

a. Don't forget God

- i. In all of you ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths – Prov. 3:5-6

b. Keep your life in constant preparation for the blessings of God

c. INVITATION – Be saved by water