

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
UNHOLY ALLIANCES BRING TROUBLE
2 KINGS 3:1-10

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Introduction

Let me begin tonight by asking you a question:

Has there ever been a time in your life as a Believer that you got into trouble because you didn't seek God or at least godly counsel first about whether you should do something...you just decided to do something and it didn't turn out so well and then you needed the LORD to rescue you?

Well, tonight, LORD willing, we are going to see one of those times in the life of King Jehoshaphat of Judah. I know that we already looked at his death in the last Chapter of 1 Kings, but this incident happened before his death in the days of Elisha and the focus here is on **Jehoram, the wicked son of Ahab**.

We're going to see that without seeking the LORD, **Jehoshaphat joined in with the wrong crowd to try to do what might have been a good thing had he asked and been granted the LORD's permission**. We'll see that it put both him and his army in a precarious place where they should have never been had he sought counsel!

We're not going to read all of the verses to begin with tonight, but rather we'll read the Scripture associated with each point as we look at the points!

I. WE SEE ANOTHER WICKED KING OF ISRAEL—JEHORAM. (Vs. 1-3)

Jehoram's father was Ahab. Jehoram was not an imitator of the same evil of his father Ahab and his mother Jezebel as it related to Baal worship, but he was nonetheless evil and wicked!

Scripture says that he **"put away"** or cast aside his father's image of Baal (That's good!) but he reverted back to the days of Jeroboam which means that he reestablished calf worship instead. (That's bad!)

Now we need to understand this concept well: **Wickedness is still wickedness no matter what form or flavor that it may be! Though we may not view our sins to be as bad as others' sins, we need to understand that sin is sin in whatever form it may manifest itself!**

Anyway you cut it, **Jehoram was still an idolater! He just served different gods than his parents!**

II. WE SEE THE KING OF MOAB REBELLED AGAINST THE KING OF ISRAEL. (Vs. 4-5)

1 Kings 1:1 also tells us that Moab began rebelling against Israel after the death of Ahab two years earlier when Jehoram's wicked brother, Ahaziah, was reigning.

Now **verse 4** here hints that Moab previously was paying tribute to the King of Israel by way of 100,000 lambs and 100,000 rams along with the wool. But that all came to an end when Ahab died and they rebelled!

III. WE SEE AN UNHOLY AND UNWISE ALLIANCE WAS FORMED AGAINST MOAB. (Vs 6-9a)

Now the Bible says that **Jehoram was wicked—and he was!** And of course we know **Edom was wicked—Edom** was the nation formed from the descendants of Esau—**It was a heathen nation as well! And later on, when we get to 2 Kings 8, we'll see that Edom also came to rebel against Judah!**

But **aligning up with these two wicked nations, we see King Jehoshaphat of Judah, whom we have previously seen was a relatively good, God-fearing King!**

However, **Jehoshaphat had one thing about him that the LORD did not like. He was prone to form WRONG ALLIANCES with wicked men.** (e.g. Remember how we saw that he formed an alliance with the wicked Ahab as well and it nearly cost him his life in the battle for Ramoth-Gilead?)

Jehoshaphat's making alliances with the wicked was a critical mistake in Ahab's day and it was a critical mistake here again! In fact, we have previously seen how the LORD expressed His displeasure with him over this and it cost him in the end!

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2 Chronicles 19:2-3 2 And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, **Shouldst thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.** 3 Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.

In the end, we saw how Jehoshaphat's eldest son, married Ahab's daughter. After the death of his father he wound up doing evil like Ahab and killing all his brothers. The LORD smote him with an incurable disease and he died at 40 years of age. (Cf. *2 Chronicles 21*)

So Jehoshaphat made an **unholy alliance** with Jehoram the wicked son of Ahab and the Edomites. He did this in order to try to subdue the rebellion of the Moabites. Now the Moabites were a cursed and evil people as well. They were one of two peoples that came from Lot's daughters incestuous relations with their father as they fled from Sodom's destruction by fire and brimstone!
(*The Moabites and the Ammonites.*)

But understand that though this may have seemed like a worthy end, **it did not and does not justify the means by which Jehoshaphat were going about it!**

Listen, the LORD doesn't want us to align ourselves closely with the wicked (lost people) in a common goal, especially if the wicked are the instigators of it. Instead, our relationships with the lost are to be a one way street. We are to build bridges to them only for the purpose of seeing them saved.

But over and over Scripture warns of alliances with the wicked!
Psalms 1:1— "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."

Proverbs 1:10 — "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."

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Proverbs 1:15— "My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:"

Proverbs 4:14— "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men."

Proverbs 12:11— "...he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding."

1 Corinthians 5:11— "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat."

1 Corinthians 15:33— "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."

2 Corinthians 6:14— "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"

Ephesians 5:11— "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

2 Peter 3:17— "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness."

So wicked Jehoram contacted Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, and he also contacted the king of Edom, and they all formed this alliance together to battle the king of Moab!

Now here is the mistake. **We see that none of these kings sought the LORD as to if they should be doing this!** We'd expect that out of Jehoram as well as the king of Edom, but not Jehoshaphat!

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So, these three kings combined their armies together and started off on their journey.

IV. **WE SEE THIS UNHOLY ALLIANCE BROUGHT A PROBLEM ON THEIR JOURNEY. (Vs 9-10)**

It is almost as if the LORD allowed this to happen to say...

“OK, none of you sought me to see if you should go, so I’ll make you seek me for water to survive AND see if I say that it is OK to continue!”

So we see they traveled seven days into their journey, and they ran out of water. They had no water for their horses or for their men or for themselves! That’s a real problem! Amen!

We talked about the importance of water already in **chapter 2** when the LORD used Elisha to heal the bad waters of Jericho!

Now I want you to notice the astute observation by the wicked King who got them all into this mess to begin with!

Jehoram made the observation that the LORD had brought these three kings together to hand them over to the king of Moab.

Well, this is what Jehoram deserved because of his being wicked in not serving the LORD!

And it is what the nameless King of Edom deserved being heathen and not serving the LORD!

And it is what Jehoshaphat deserved for not seeking the LORD’s face on this and also for joining in with this unholy alliance!

So, it is not that all three of them didn’t deserve being handed over to Moab! But LORD willing, next week we will see Jehoshaphat calls for a Prophet of the LORD to enquire of. I guess better late than never! And Elisha is the Prophet the LORD uses in a water scenario once again!

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Conclusion

With all the Bible says about separation...there are some who still balk at it even today and criticize the man of God if he dares mention the word **“separation”** for fear of running folks off!

(Oh preacher, that’s being **“legalistic”**! No, it’s being Biblical!)

Some folks are OK going with their old crowd to their places and justify it because they don’t do their deeds...but they give the appearance of evil, and send the wrong message about being a Believer!

Are we to be concerned about appearances? Apparently so,
1 Thessalonians 5:22– “Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

1 Corinthians 10:31– “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

Jehoshaphat did not do right in terms of separation, and it cost his people such that their very lives were in danger. So now he decides to go to the man of God for counseling! I think he finally realized that he needed to have separated himself from them, but he’s with them now, and yet still there is no water...what should he do?!

We’ll see that the LORD lays it on Elisha’s heart what He, the LORD, will do to rescue them!