

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE LORD DELIVERS
2 KINGS 3:11-27

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Introduction

So last time we were looking at how **UNHOLY ALLIANCES BRING TROUBLE**. We saw how that an otherwise godly King Jehoshaphat of Judah **joined in yet another unholy alliance** with the wicked King Jehoram of Israel and an unnamed King of Edom to battle the Moabites who had rebelled against the King of Israel!

There was no sane reason for him to do so. There was no seeking the LORD to see if it was something he should do. It wasn't.

These three kings went seven days chasing after Moab and ran out of water! The assessment by wicked King Jehoram of Israel is found in **verse 10 where we left off last time**.

So, it is not that all three of them didn't deserve to be handed over to Moab, but we will see God lays it on Elisha's heart what He, the Lord will do to rescue all of them.

I. WE SEE JEHOSHAPHAT CALL FOR A PROPHET OF THE LORD! (Vs 11-12a)

Now this is what Jehoshaphat should have done BEFORE this journey!

Have you ever set out to do something without seeking the LORD?

Sometimes it can be:

"Oh I got this...no need to bother the LORD with it!"

Philippians 4:6—"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

So, when you set out without the LORD's counsel and then get in over your head, that's when you figure out you've made a grave mistake by not praying and seeking the LORD first!

Well, it's better to seek the LORD first! But better late than never!

But that is the scenario that we have here!

II. WE SEE THE PROPHET ELISHA WAS IN THE AREA WHERE THEY WERE. (Vs 12b)

My what a coincidence! No, there's really no such thing as a coincidence. The LORD had it to be this way! The LORD had Elisha here for the very purpose to exalt His name!

III. WE SEE THE PROPHET ELISHA DIDN'T REALLY WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE KING OF ISRAEL OR KING OF EDOM! (Vs 13-14)

Elisha addressed the wicked King of Israel first! In so many words he tells him here:

"What in the world are you doing here seeking counsel from a Prophet of God? I ain't got nothing to do with your type! Why don't you go back and ask your daddy and mama's gods what you should do."
(Referring to Baal)

Then the King of Israel made an interesting comment here in **vs 13b**. He was essentially acknowledging his opinion again that the LORD has brought the three Kings together to deliver them over to Moab. **(Cf. 10)**

After the King of Israel made his statement, Elisha told him that if it it wasn't for Jehoshaphat **he wouldn't even regard his presence...that he wouldn't look in his direction...that he would not even see him!**

I want you to note how the King of Israel and the King of Edom **didn't want acknowledge the LORD in their lives, except when they got into trouble and needed Him to get them out!**

Sadly that is the position of way too many people in the world!

They don't want anything to do with the LORD or His house or His people UNTIL they need or want something out of them!

Help with the rent!

Help with the utility bills!

Help with food!

Help with a marriage ceremony!

Help with a funeral!

Help with a sickness!

Help with prayer for a need!

Help with whatever!

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE LORD DELIVERS
2 KINGS 3:11-27

IV. WE SEE THE PROPHET ELISHA ASKED FOR SOME MUSIC TO BE PLAYED! (*Vs 15*)

I think just the presence of these two wicked kings asking for the LORD's help was enough to **put the prophet in a bad state of mind!**

He called for someone to play stringed music (from the word used here, probably a harp) **to help put him into a frame of mind in which he could readily discern the LORD's will!**

(We know how David's harp-playing also helped soothe Saul in *1 Samuel 16:23!*)

V. WE SEE THE WORD OF THE LORD ABOUT THE WATER IS REVEALED BY ELISHA! (*Vs 16-17*)

Did you just see what the prophet told them that the LORD wanted them to do?

Here are all of these men who have traveled hard for seven days! They are no doubt hot and tired! But worst of all they are out of water! Which means they are probably thirsty! We are not told how long they had been out of water but it seemed to be a desperate situation!

They were already worn out and weary, and God said that he wanted them to dig ditches without any wind (no breeze?) and without any rain!

Wait a minute...why did they have to dig ditches? Listen to me very closely, **BECAUSE THE LORD TOLD THEM TO!**

But you just said in *vs. 17* there wouldn't be storms or rain! That's right, but there'll be water in the ditches...the LORD said so!

They had to have faith in the Word of the LORD and lay aside all their self-sufficiency and obey what the LORD told them to do if they wanted water! They had to dig ditches or God couldn't fill them!

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE LORD DELIVERS
2 KINGS 3:11-27

Get this...the LORD responds to us when we OBEY HIS WORD! Putting faith into action...that's the principle here! Don't just say you have faith! Show your faith!

The apostle James said in *James 2:18*, "... *shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*"

"Thus saith the LORD, make this valley full of ditches."

Now, I don't know about you, but that sounds a little strange to me. It doesn't make any rational sense! When we think about it from a human standpoint we can't figure out why the LORD would say this!

It probably didn't make a lot of sense to most of these men either! Can't you imagine some of the objections that these three kings heard? *"Now, wait a minute your highness, we just want our containers refilled with water and water for our horses, we don't want to dig ditches. We just want it to rain, we don't want to have to dig ditches!"*

It didn't make sense on a human level! In fact, it sounded ridiculous! I want you to notice something here though. As we study this passage of Scripture, we can see that:

A. **The LORD's Plan For Us Sometimes Doesn't Make Sense To Us!**

1 Corinthians 1:18—"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

B. **The LORD's Plan For Us Requires Our Absolute Obedience To What He Tells Us To Do!**

These men just wanted to have water all of a sudden! They would have preferred that the LORD use the wind to blow in a storm and it rain down for them! They'd love to have had water on their terms!

But that wasn't the LORD's plan for them! He required them to be obedient to His Word!

**BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE LORD DELIVERS
2 KINGS 3:11-27**

If they wanted water, they had to get busy and dig ditches in the valley!

Too many folks want the blessing of the LORD without having to be obedient to Him in ANY way! But that is NOT the LORD's way!

They had to have enough faith in the LORD to provide the water so that they obeyed their part in digging the ditches!

When the LORD tells us to do something, we need to get busy and do it! Now I am not saying we need to just be busy anything! It must be what the LORD wants us to do!

The LORD's Plan For Us Sometimes Doesn't Make Sense To Us!

The LORD's Plan For Us Requires Or Absolute Obedience To What He Tells Us To Do!

C. The LORD's Plan For Us Tests Our Trust In Him! (Vs 20)
If you trust, then you obey! *"Trust and obey for there is no other way!"*

Do you see that?

When these men did what LORD told them to do...

When they did something that may have sounded foolish...

When they were obedient to what the LORD said, then LORD supplied them with more water than they thought they needed! The LORD filled these ditches with water.

He did that with His supernatural power!

Now, if these men had decided that this sounded silly and they weren't going to do it, if these men had decided that they did not need to spend their time digging these ditches, do you think that God would have provided them with water? NO!

**BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE LORD DELIVERS
2 KINGS 3:11-27**

Because the LORD told them that if they would dig the ditches, then He would fill them with water. And that is exactly what He did!

Sometimes it is hard for us in this sinful flesh to put that kind of trust in the LORD, but we must!

Oh, we may believe that he can supply for us, but oftentimes it is the WAY He chooses to supply leaves us in wonder of Him!

This is not the only time where the LORD's commands didn't make sense! (*e.g. Moses being told to strike a rock to get water, the things that the Children of Israel were told to do in the battle for Jericho, Jesus' command to take the stone away from Lazarus' tomb...others*)

VI. WE SEE THEIR OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD REGARDING THE WATER WAS TIED TO THEIR VICTORY OVER MOAB! (Vs. 18-19, 21-27)

These three kings not only needed water, they needed to know if they were going to be successful in their endeavor together against Moab!

But notice how their obedience in the matter for water led, not only to them obtaining water, but it led directly to the LORD giving them victory over Moab!

If they hadn't dug the ditches in obedience to the Word of the LORD, then they wouldn't have had the victory they desired either?

The LORD's power here exceeded their expectations! He used the water to confuse the Moabites!

The Moabites knew that there was no water down in that valley, and when they woke up that morning, they looked out, and the Bible says that the sun shone red on the water and it looked like blood. How did that happen? The LORD!

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE LORD DELIVERS
2 KINGS 3:11-27

The Moabites thought that there had been a blood bath, they thought that these three kings had fought against each other and destroyed each other, and they ran in to get all the spoil and plunder.

The LORD used the water to both confuse and defeat the Moabites. The LORD handed the battle over to these three kings! In fact, the LORD allowed the Moabites to be defeated with very little effort!

The hardest thing that this army had to do, was to obey the LORD and dig the ditches and then the LORD took care of the rest.

What did they want? Water!
What did they get? Water, and victory!

The LORD will exceed our expectations every time if we'll just trust and obey!

Conclusion

Are you willing to do something the LORD asks you to do even if it makes absolutely no sense to you at all?

That is what the people of the Bible did, time and time again.

Abraham left his home and headed out, not knowing where he was going.

Abraham went to sacrifice his son Isaac knowing that he was the son of the promises of God.

The hall of faith chapter (Hebrews 11) is full of these things that people did that made no sense to them at all except through the eyes of faith!