

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