

The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #31 | Jehoram Invites Jehoshaphat to Battle against Moab

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

2 Kings 3:1-3

1 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.

2 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.

3 Nevertheless he cleaved unto the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom.

1. Fill in the blank of the name of the 9th King of Israel:

Kings of Israel	Kings of Judah
1. Jeroboam	1. Rehoboam
2. Nadab	2. Abijam
	3. Asa
3. Baasha	
4. Elah	
5. Zimri	
6. Omri	
	4. Jehoshaphat
7. Ahab (wife: Jezebel, daughter: Athaliah)	
8. Ahaziah (2 Kings 1)	
9. J _ h _ r _ m (2 Kings 3) a.k.a: J _ r _ m (2 Kings 8:16)	5. Jehoram (1 Kings 22:50) (wife: Athaliah (2 Kings 8:18)
	6. Ahaziah (2 Kings 8:24,26)

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2. In 2 Kings 3:2, Jehoram "...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".

Who is Jehoram's father and mother?

_____ & _____

3. While it was good that Jehoram destroyed Baal worship in Israel, he still continued in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat. Do you remember what are the four significant (and sinful!) changes Jeroboam?

1.	2.
3.	4.

2 Kings 3:6-8

6 And king Jehoram went out of Samaria the same time, and numbered all Israel.

7 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.

8 And he said, Which way shall we go up? And he answered, The way through the wilderness of Edom.

4. When Jehoram invited Jehoshaphat to join him battle against Moab. Jehoshaphat's reply to Jehoram was exactly the same as the reply he gave to (ii) whom, and in (iii) which battle? Circle the correct answer

1. Ahaziah; battle of Ramoth Gilead from the Edomites	2. Ahab; battle of Ramoth Gilead from the Syrians
3. Ahab; battle of Samaria from the Syrians	4 Ahaziah; battle of Samaria from the Moabites

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2 Kings 3:9-11

9 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.

10 And the king of Israel said, Alas! that the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab!

11 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.

5. In the map below, (i) fill in the following places: "Gilead", "Ammon", "Moab", "Edom", and (ii) draw out the route which the three kings would have taken in their seven day journey.



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8. The king of Israel, Jehoram, was very quick to blame the LORD for their current predicament.

In a famous message preached from this text by Charles Haddon Spurgeon on April 28, 1867, entitled, "Make This Valley Full of Ditches", we find an excellent exposition of this passage. Read an extract of Spurgeon's sermon, taken from his online repository of sermons (www.spurgeon.org), and answer the following true or false questions:

We may also learn here how easily men in times of difficulty which they have brought upon themselves, will lay their distress upon providence rather than honestly see it to be the result of their own foolish actions. Hear the king of Israel cast the blame upon Jehovah: "For the Lord hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab." Providence is a most convenient horse to bear the saddles of our folly. ... if we prosper and succeed, we proudly sacrifice to our own wisdom; but if shame and loss follow our folly, then we complain of an unpropitious* providence. Alas! for man, that he will even rail against his God, rather than acknowledge himself to be in error.

**unpropitious: unfavourable, unpleasant*

----- When Christians make decisions without seeking God, and end up in a messy situation with regrets, we can blame God for allowing us to make mistakes.

----- When we hear others complaining against God, without acknowledging their mistakes and sins, we know that they have not truly repented, and they remain in their pride and folly.

9. In the following passage, choose the appropriate word from the list provided and fill in the blanks.

cattle | war | water | seven | Jehoram | Ahab |
thankful | remiss* | gold

**remiss: lacking care and attention; negligent*

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In Jehoshaphat's conquest of Moab together with the kings of Israel and Edom, he suddenly remembered the need to seek the LORD. A similar incident happened with the former king of Israel, _____. Jehoshaphat had quickly agreed to join him to reclaim Ramothgilead from the Syrians. When he remembered the need to seek the LORD, he asked for a prophet of the LORD. Ahab responded, "There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, ... but I hate him". (1 Kings 22:8). This time, with king _____, Jehoshaphat also asks to see the Lord, though he was _____ days late!

It was good that Jehoshaphat enquired of the Lord, but it would have been much better if he had done it sooner, before he engaged in the ____; so that the distress might have been prevented. Because of the long journey and the need to feed the _____ they had brought along, they had run out of _____!

Good men are sometimes _____ and forgetful, and they neglect their duty till necessity and affliction drive them to it!

Spurgeon elaborates on this same point in the same sermon.

"... the truly spiritual are by their misfortunes and their necessities driven nearer to God. I do not find Jehoshaphat himself enquiring for a prophet of God until there was no water, and then he said, "Is there not here a prophet of the Lord, that we may enquire of the Lord by him?" When tribulation drives us to the Lord, it is an unspeakable blessing, and makes affliction prove to us one of our greatest mercies. It is a good wave that washes the mariner on to the rock: it is a blessed trouble which wafts the Christian nearer to his God.

10. After reading Spurgeon's exhortation, what should be the Christian's prayer. Tick all the following which apply:

- ☐ That God will send trials and troubles to loose us from our attachment to this world
- ☐ That God will send trials and troubles to awaken us from our foolish slumber
- ☐ That God will send trials and troubles to draw us close to God
- ☐ That we will be thankful for trials and troubles that stop us from continuing in our foolish and sinful ways