

The Lord of Heaven's Armies - 2 Kings 3

Background:

1. Moab is family through Lot and Ruth (two very different heritages)
2. The sins of Jeroboam included but were not limited to: two golden calves, unauthorized priesthood, creating high places that took the people from Jerusalem, altering the feast days, deliberately forced the 10 tribes into idolatrous worship to prevent them from returning to the house of David.
3. Jehoshaphat, the fourth king of Judah (873-848 BCE) did right in the sight of the Lord. He removed Asherim poles and did not worship Baal. He established a judicial system with judges in major towns and a court of appeals in Jerusalem.
4. Prophets were originally instituted as an administrative checks and balances to Kings and to represent the wishes of Yahweh.
5. The Jehoram means *Yahweh is exalted*.
6. Moab had been placed in vassal status by King David (2 Samuel 8:2)
7. Edom – descendants of Esau

Names of God used in this text

- a. Yahweh - the covenant iteration of our deity.
- b. The Lord of Heaven's Armies

Verses 1-3

1. What do you think of Jehoram being given his name by Ahab and Jezabel?
2. Why do you think the name Yahweh is used here?
3. Why the focus on Jehoram's removal of the Baal?
4. Why do you think he kept the legacies of Jeroboam?

Verse 5

1. Why do you think Mesha picked Ahab's death as a time to rebel?

Vs 6-9

1. Why do you think Edom joined this foray?
2. What do you make of the phrase “they wandered around on the road”.
3. What do you make of the fact it was for “7” days?

Vs. 10- 12

I find this little interchange between 2 kings and a servant fascinating.

1. What do you think it says about Jehoram?
2. About Jehoshaphat?
3. About the servant?
4. What opportunity is being given to the three kings?

Vs. 13

I find it interesting the Elisha knew it was the king of Israel that had started this journey

1. What do you think of Jehoram’s response?
2. How does his voice sound to your mind?

Vs. 14

1. What do you think of Elisha’s state of mind or emotions?
2. How do you picture him?
3. Why do you think he uses the phrase the Lord of Heaven’s armies?

Vs. 16-19

1. In what other Bible stories do you remember empty vessels being talked about?
2. Do you think it might be an object lesson about the Holy Spirit?
3. What are other stories about sustenance arriving miraculously?
4. Re: The instruction to stop and springs and cut down trees...remind me to tell you the story of General Sherman.

Vs. 20-27

1. What do you think about the miracle happening at the time of the morning sacrifice?

I found myself trying to give Moab and their sheep the benefit of the doubt.

2. What are the aspects of these verses that show the character of Moab?

I have been thinking about my own country and my own politics, and I wonder how I would react in these circumstances. I wonder what thoughts you have about your own journey that come up in this chapter.

I wish for you gentle, unexpected blessings.

Catherine