

Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday May 25, 2022 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study



THREE KINGS AND A PROPHET “Elisha Prepares to Hear God’s Word 2 Kings 3:1-27 (focus vv.13-15)

“¹ Now Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. ² And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not like his father and mother; for he put away the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had made. ³ Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; he did not depart from them. ⁴ Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheepbreeder, and he regularly paid the king of Israel one hundred thousand lambs and the wool of one hundred thousand rams. ⁵ But it happened, when Ahab died, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel. ⁶ So King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel. ⁷ Then he went and sent to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, saying, “The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?” And he said, “I will go up; I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.” ⁸ Then he said, “Which way shall we go up?” And he answered, “By way of the Wilderness of Edom.” ⁹ So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom, and they marched on that roundabout route seven days; and there was no water for the army, nor for the animals that followed them. ¹⁰ And the king of Israel said, “Alas! For the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab.” ¹¹ But Jehoshaphat said, “Is there no prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of the LORD by him?” So one of the servants of the king of Israel answered and said, “Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah.” ¹² And Jehoshaphat said, “The word of the LORD is with him.” So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him. ¹³ Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, “What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother.” But the king of Israel said to him, “No, for the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab.” ¹⁴ And Elisha said, “As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you. ¹⁵ But now bring me a musician.” Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. ¹⁶ And he said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Make this valley full of ditches.’ ¹⁷ For thus says the LORD: ‘You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink.’ ¹⁸ And this is a simple matter in the sight of the LORD; He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand. ¹⁹ Also you shall attack every fortified city and every choice city, and shall cut down every good tree, and stop up every spring of water, and ruin every good piece of land with stones.” ²⁰ Now it happened in the morning, when the grain offering was offered, that suddenly water came by way of Edom, and the land was filled with water. ²¹ And when all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them, all who were able to bear arms and older were gathered; and they stood at the border. ²² Then

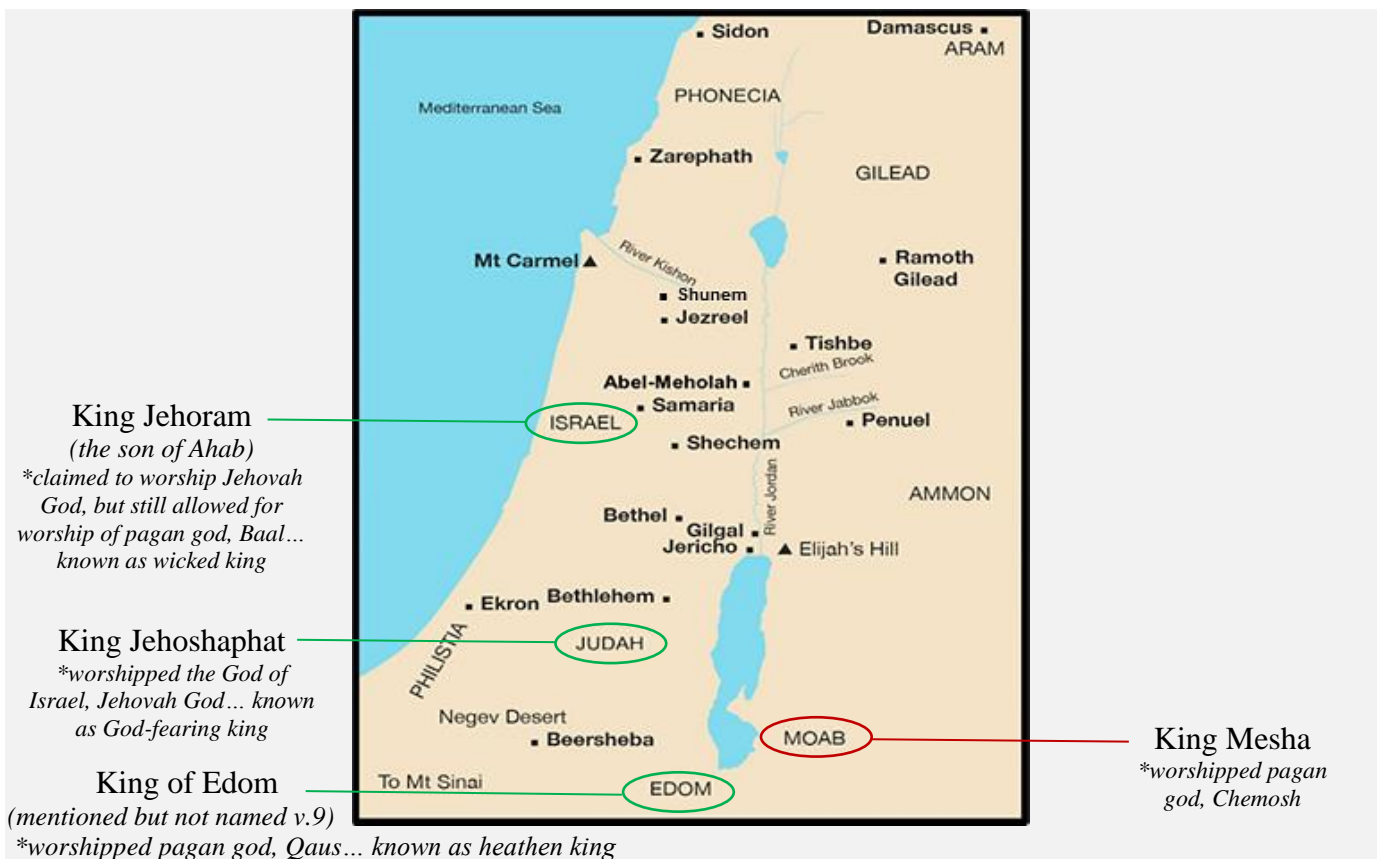
they rose up early in the morning, and the sun was shining on the water; and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood. ²³ And they said, "This is blood; the kings have surely struck swords and have killed one another; now therefore, Moab, to the spoil!" ²⁴ So when they came to the camp of Israel, Israel rose up and attacked the Moabites, so that they fled before them; and they entered their land, killing the Moabites. ²⁵ Then they destroyed the cities, and each man threw a stone on every good piece of land and filled it; and they stopped up all the springs of water and cut down all the good trees. But they left the stones of Kir Haraseth intact. However the slingers surrounded and attacked it. ²⁶ And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took with him seven hundred men who drew swords, to break through to the king of Edom, but they could not. ²⁷ Then he took his eldest son who would have reigned in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering upon the wall; and there was great indignation against Israel. So they departed from him and returned to their own land." – 2 Kings 3:1-27 ***focus vv.13-15** (NKJV)

We began our study on the life of Elisha several weeks ago, one of the great prophets of God. Elisha's life and ministry is a powerful follow up to his predecessor and mentor Elijah. Here are some of the important background facts that may help to firmly establish in our minds who Elisha was and where he came from.

5 Important Background Facts About Elisha to Remember:

1. **The name Elisha means "God is Salvation" and gives us an idea of the purpose of His ministry (v.19) -**
2. **Elisha was the son of a farmer named Shaphat, and was himself a farmer when God called him (v.19) –**
3. **Elisha was from the town of Abel-Meholah in Israel which means "Meadow of Dancing" which may reflect something of Elisha's personality (which was one of compassion, mercy and joy) (v.19) –** That is where Elijah found Elisha plowing the fields. Verse 16 tell us the was from Abel-Meholah, "...**And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.**" Remember that where as Elijah had been more firey and stern as a prophet, Elisha was characterized as being somewhat kinder, more joyful, full of compassion and mercy, which we shall see in our study of his life.
4. **Elisha's call to ministry was from God not man, and was issued through the Prophet Elijah (v.19) –** An important note here is that Elijah didn't call Elisha, God did. Elijah, throughout his ministry was simple the messenger of God, and no less here was Elijah the messenger to Elisha of God's call on his life. Look up at **verse 16** in 1 Kings 19, "**Also you (Elijah) shall appoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.**" God calls! If you are not called of God, but rather called by man your ministry will fail.
5. **When God called Elisha he surrendered his life fully to God's call, no turning back (v.20-21) –** Listen to it again in our passage in **verses 20-21**, "**²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" ²¹ So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.**" Some have questioned Elisha's reluctance to follow as indicated in verse 20 by his desire to turn back and kiss his mother and father. But that is a misread of this passage. Notice more importantly in verse 21 that Elisha indicated his fully surrender to God's call on his life with not turning back by the fact that he slaughtered his work animals and burned his plows in order to dedicate his life to God in worship and adoration... and surrender. He burned up his previous work equipment to surrender himself to God. He had nothing to go back to. Elisha was a fully surrendered prophet of God. He was all in... and that is what it take to build an persevering faith.

One more important fact about Elisha's life that might be of interest to you and that set's him apart from other prophets in the Old Testament... Elisha was incredibly blessed by God. He did more miracles in the Old Testament than anyone except Moses.



INTRODUCTION

There are many lessons of faith in this section of 2 Kings, chapter 3.

2 Important Lessons of Faith in 2 Kings 3:

- (1) **Miracles are no big deal for God** - That is the first lesson here. The miraculous is no big deal for God. And victory over our enemies is a very little thing with God, the Creator of the universe and sovereign Savior of man. No matter how big or small our problems, God cares and He is more than adequate. The miraculous is a very little thing with God. That doesn't mean He doesn't care about our needs or even our need for a miracle... it just means if God is really God then He can do all (anything) He wants to do and its not too hard for Him.
- (2) **Relationship is a very big deal (important) for God** - But there is another prominent lesson that flows though these verses like a uniting thread. In fact, all through Scripture the Bible is pregnant with this emphasis. While miracles are a very small thing to God, watching after our relationship with Him daily and moment by moment is a very big thing. It is the most important thing in life. In fact it is what life is all about. It is the root of success or the root of defeat. It is the spring of life or the cause of spiritual drought. Our relationship with Him, being in relationship with Him who created us for relationship with Him, who went to such great lengths to be in relationship with us, who left His very throne in Heaven and came to earth to restore that relationship broken, which may give a huge hint at how important relationship with Him is... indicates relationship s a very (very) big deal to God.

As Proverbs 4:23 literally says in the Hebrew, *"Above all else, guard your heart (the inner sanctuary of one's relationship with God), for everything you do flows from it."*

We pick up our story of the Prophet Elisha in 2 Kings 3 with three kings (sort of 4 kings) and the Prophet Elisha in a real predicament. Under some unusual alliances and circumstance that they likely shouldn't have been in to start with they find themselves in the wilderness and about to perish because of a lack of water. But remember, this was the result of not taking God seriously and consulting Him concerning their plans. So ultimately, the greater enemy was not the Moabites as we will see, but their own failure to seek God's direction.

Let me give you a quick synopsis of what is taking place in 2 Kings 3:

- **Following (extra bad king) Ahab's death and the short-lived reign of his eldest son Ahaziah (about 18 month reign, bad king), Ahab's second-in-line-to-the-throne son, Jehoram (mostly bad king) become king of the northern divided kingdom of Israel.**
- **Jehoram was not as bad as his father and brother had been, but he was still bad. Verses 2-3 says, *"² And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not like his father and mother; for he put away the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had made. ³ Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; he did not depart from them."***
- **Under King Ahab, Moab had been defeated by the northern kingdom of Israel and Ahab had held them under a type of taxation where they paid year into Israel's coffers in order to keep Israel from invading them again... but upon Ahab (Ahaziah's death) Mesha, King of Moab, decided to rebel and refuse to continue to pay this tribute.**
- **This made Jehoram, King of Israel angry and he decided to form an alliance with the King of the southern kingdom of Judah and the King of Edom in order to attack Moab.**
- **But these kings on their way to battle Moab found themselves in a life-threatening predicament in the middle of the wilderness of Edom with no water, with them men fainting, and growing weaker by the moment... and facing certain defeat and even death.**
- **That's when they decided that it might be time to seek God help... really at the insistence of the only King who really feared and worshipped Jehovah God.**
- **We pick it up there in verses 11-12 in our passage... notice it, *"¹¹ But Jehoshaphat said, 'Is there no prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of the LORD by him?' So one of the servants of the king of Israel answered and said, 'Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah.' ¹² And Jehoshaphat said, 'The word of the LORD is with him.' So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him."***
- **Notice a couple of important and key things that emerge from these two verses...**

2 Keys For Finding Help in Helpless Situations:

- (1) **Know to turn to the God who helps** - Notice that the only one king who truly feared and honored recognized the need to call on God (the other two did not). This reminds us that when our backs are against the wall and all hope seems lost true believers know where to find hope and help... the Lord.
- (2) **Know the God who help is more than lip service** - Also notice that the king of Israel who perhaps shallowly too claim to worship God isn't the one who suggest a turn to God, it was rather his servant. This reminds us that our relationship with God must be more than words of devotion, and confessions of knowing Him. It's not enough to know about God! Do you know Him? Apparently Jehoram (wicked king) gave lip service to Jehovah God, but even prior to going into this ill-conceived battle he didn't consult or seek God's help... evidence that He didn't really know, worship or believe in Him.

- **When is the right time to go to God? Before, during or after? For a genuine believer it's all three!**

Many wait until their back are against the wall, or until they find themselves in hot water, or until their trouble get the best of them before they cry out to God. It's almost as if we give God little thought, devotion or attention until we really need Him. We treat God more like a "get out of jail free" card, or "magic genie in the lamp"... rub the lamp when you are in trouble and God will magically appear to bail you out. ***What's wrong with this approach?***

What's wrong with using God in a pinch to get out of trouble?

- (1) It's **dishonoring to God**
- (2) It's indicative of a **shallow walk/faith** (*in fact it could be symptomatic of no faith at all*)
- (3) It's **unbiblical**

Jeremiah 29:13, "You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."

Isaiah 55:6, "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near."

Why we wait to seek after God until we are already in trouble?

- (1) **No thought for God** – We have not cultivated our prayer life, our time in His Word, our devotional life, our worship and times spent with Him that our relationship is shallow and don't really "know" Him.
- (2) **Too busy for God** – Let's face it life is busy... all the time. Daily life can be consumed with "stuff"... not bad stuff, just stuff. Much of it is good, and necessary and we can't get away from it, but if we aren't careful it can cause us to lose touch with God, to forget about God, to push Him out of our lives, until it all gets the best of us and then we find ourselves in a desperate situation crying out to Him.
- (3) **We want our own way** – We don't give a lot of thought to our ways, the way we are living, our own walk. We perhaps are compromising in our faith, watered down in our walk and we like it that way. We have so convinced ourselves that what we are doing is okay and our conscience has been so "seared" that we are perhaps oblivious to the damage we are doing until we find ourselves in deep water trouble.
- (4) **Lack of focus on God** – Christians/believers, genuine in their faith and walk, ought to maintain their focus on God, but let's be honest... it's easy to get out of focus, to get our eyes off of God and onto a whole host of issues pressing in on us in our day.
- (5) **Sin** – Our own sinful state, unconfessed sin, guilt, shame... these things associated with sin may cause us to feel like we can't approach God either because of our own sense of unworthiness (Why would God want to help me after all I've done? I messed up and God doesn't love me any more!) or because we enjoy our sin and we don't want to give up what we are doing, and to truly come to God in repentance and brokenness seeking His help would mean having to admit we were wrong.

Now that brief synopsis and introduction to what is going on in this 3rd chapter of 2 Kings, really brings us to Elisha part in all of this and his response to the predicament that these 3 kings find themselves in. Here are the verses I want us to focus on in **2 Kings 3:13-15**. Notice Elisha's reaction...

¹³ Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother." But the king of Israel said to him, "No, for the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab." ¹⁴ And Elisha said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you. ¹⁵ But now bring me a musician." Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him. -2 Kings 3:13-15

ELISHA REBUKES THE KINGS (2 Kings 3:13-14)

As we can see from these verses, Elisha was a man not prone toward partiality for even a moment. His allegiance was to the Lord and to the principles of His Word regardless of a person's position, power, or wealth. Because he (Elisha) took God seriously and was willing to trust the Lord regardless of the outcome, like Elijah, he could stand fearlessly and declare the truth. He knew he was surrounded by a multitude of the hosts of the Lord and stood in the presence of the living God whom he represented. **Notice the three following verses/passages. What are they telling us about where Elisha found his strength and focus, and why he was able to face such challenging circumstances?**

- **2 Kings 3:14** - ¹⁴And Elisha said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you."
- **1 Kings 17:1** - ¹And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."
- **2 Kings 6:15-17** - ¹⁵And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" ¹⁶So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

What encouragement do these verses give to us as believers to day to stand alone and speak the truth even when it's not popular, to face challenging circumstances with courage and strength?

Principles to glean from these three passages in 1 & 2 Kings:

1. We must not fear man only God and serve Him alone
2. We are accountable only to God, to obey Him
3. We are surrounded with God's presence and His host... always
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Here it is again in verses 13-14 of our passage, ¹³Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother." But the king of Israel said to him, "No, for the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab." ¹⁴And Elisha said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you."

Notice response in verse 13 in the form of 2 statements... one a question and one explanation...

2 Statements of Elisha to the Wicked King of Israel (Jehoram):

- (1) **"What do I have to do with you?"** - Elisha didn't pull any punches did he? He came directly to the point. In this question he was saying, what do we have in common, why have you, an idolater, a rejecter of the commandments of God come to me? Your sins have separated you from God (Isaiah 39:2) and from any message or help God may have for you.

Listen to Paul's words to believers in Corinth. How do these words relate to Elisha's question to Jehoram in 2 Kings 3? How might these apply to us as believers today? What do you think these words from Paul mean and not mean?

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. -2 Corinthians 6:14-16 (NKJV)

- (2) ***“Go to the prophets of your father and mother”*** – This is probably a reference to his grandparents, Ahab and Jezebel. So who were these prophets to whom Elisha referred? They were the prophets of Baal, the false prophets of idol worship who had no word from God as demonstrated so clearly in 1 Kings 18. All they had to offer were the false and deceptive visions of the Satanic world. They were prophets who said what the kings wanted to hear.

Elisha, then, was telling Jehoram to be consistent. They had been ignoring God and following after their idols, so why run to God now that they were in big trouble? Elisha was using irony by asking, can't your present religious system and your present way of life deliver you? Don't your prophets have the answers? Do you think you can ignore God and then, at your whim, when trouble strikes, just turn to God as though he were a genie in a bottle?

Elisha would never have spurned the genuine requests of a repentant man, but he knew Jehoram and said what he did in cold irony to emphasize the futility or vanity of the life he had chosen.

Listen to this quote from J. Hampton Keathley and respond. Do you agree or disagree? What are your thoughts about what Keathley is saying. Is there a message of grace in this statement? What is it?

“God often engineers defeat, failure, and frustration, seeking not only to get our attention, but to teach us the futility of our present course of action in order to draw a confession from us of our ways with a view to repentance, a change of our course.” -J. Hampton Keathley, III

Listen to these two passage from Jeremiah 2. What is Jeremiah saying in these passage?

¹⁹ Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing that you have forsaken the LORD your God, and the fear of Me is not in you,” says the Lord GOD of hosts. -Jeremiah 2:19

²⁶ “As the thief is ashamed when he is found out, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they and their kings and their princes, and their priests and their prophets, ²⁷ saying to a tree, ‘You are my father,’ and to a stone, ‘You gave birth to me.’ For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble they will say, ‘Arise and save us.’ ²⁸ But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, if they can save you in the time of your trouble; for according to the number of your cities are your gods, O Judah.” -Jeremiah 2:26-28

Of course, we do not need a literal idol to be an idolater. Scripture teaches covetousness or greed is a form of idolatry (Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5). Anything which takes the place of the worship of God, or that we depend on for our security, satisfaction, or significance in place of God--money, wealth, power, praise, pleasure, etc.--becomes a form of idolatry.

Look at verse 13 again... *¹³ Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, “What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother.” But the king of Israel said to him, “No, for the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab.”*

Notice there... in the **last part of verse 13** the confession/admission of this slightly-less-wicked king of Israel, Jehoram. We see the king of Israel's admission that the false prophets cannot help, they are futile. He is saying, no, he can't turn to them, they cannot help. Then he adds **"For the Lord has called these three kings . . ."** ***Do you read this as a faith confession or just a recognition? Why?*** This is interesting from a "wishy-washy" king like Jehoram! Think of it... he was half-in and half-out... sometimes with God and sometimes with Baal... not as bad as Ahab but not fully devoted to God either... "wishy-washy."

In this we see at least 2 things... conclusion we can draw...

2 Conclusions from Jehoram's Response: (to Elisha in verse 13)

- (1) **He knew Yahweh (Jehovah) was God** – This statement confirms that he knew Yahweh of Israel was God...the true God. Perhaps as a young son of Ahab he had been impressed with God's act on Mt. Carmel through the Prophet Elijah.
- (2) **His belief seemed little more than an acknowledgment** – Jehoram's belief was a belief like the devils who believe and tremble... Remember James' words in **James 2:19**, ***"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble!"*** In other words Jehoram's was a belief without repentance and faith in the power of God. He knew his ways were wrong, guilt filled his soul and he knew he deserved God's wrath.

Notice **verse 14** again, ***"¹⁴ And Elisha said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you."*** Harsh words to the king of Israel, Jehoram. Now remember, it was Jehoshaphat who asked for a prophet of the Lord that they (the three kings) might inquire of the Lord by a prophet (vs. 11). But Elisha's rejection of Jehoram as expressed in verse 14 illustrates the concept of unanswered prayer and God's refusal sometimes to bring deliverance because of the spiritual condition of the heart.

Listen to these words from the Prophet Isaiah and respond. What is Isaiah tell us? What effects may sin (unconfessed, unrepentant, hiding our sin, condoning our sin, living in sin) in our life have on our lives? What effects does it have on our prayer life?

"¹Behold, the LORD's hand is not so short That it cannot save; neither is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. ²But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear." -Isaiah 59:1-2

We fail to see God's answers to prayer and His deliverance for a number of reasons:

Reasons We May Fail to See God's Hand of Deliverance and Answers to Prayer in our Life:

- (1) **Failure to honestly confess sin with a view to dealing with a sin** - ***"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me"*** (Psalm 66:18).
- (2) **Failure to hear and respond to the Word** - ***"He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, Even his prayer is an abomination"*** (Proverbs 28:9).
- (3) **Asking for the wrong motives** - ***"You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasure"*** (James 4:3).
- (4) **Failure to ask in faith, believing God** - ***"But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind"*** (James 1:6).
- (5) **Domestic problems, wrong relations with others** - ***"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers"*** (1 Peter 3:7 NIV).
- (6) **Failure to know the Lord and to come to God through Jesus Christ:** ***"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me'"*** (John 14:6).

Here is our passage again, one more time... really our focus on Elisha's word here, notice it again in verses 13-15, *"¹³ Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, 'What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother.' But the king of Israel said to him, 'No, for the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab.' ¹⁴ And Elisha said, 'As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you. ¹⁵ But now bring me a musician.' Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him." – 2 Kings 3:13-15*

Note two things that Elisha's statement teaches us about his ministry and life...

2 Things Elisha's Words Teach About His Ministry and Life:

- (1) **God is able to deliver us** – Elisha's statement declared the reality of God and His power as the Lord of armies to deliver us.
- (2) **God is with us and will use us for His glory** - It further declares Elisha was aware of God's presence and that he was a personal representative of God, one sent there to minister the word of God uncompromisingly, and one protected and enabled by the Lord who was always with him.

My friends, this is what it's all about! There is a living God who is powerful and He desires to save and minister to the needs of men. Amazingly, God has chosen men (mankind) to be the agents of His message of grace and salvation. And we must not only recognize our responsibility as His representatives, but we must also live in vital awareness of God's presence and plan to use us to share His life and message with others.

Living with an awareness of God's presence and ourselves as God's representatives and agents of His glory is one of the keys to effective, meaningful, and purposeful living and service. Such a goal-oriented attitude and awareness is both motivational and correctional. It gives courage and produces concern for people, so that we are not simply people pleasers.

CONCLUSION

This is a complicated and transitional passage as Elisha begin his ministry in the northern divided kingdom of Israel that had left God and turned to the false god's of the day. There are perhaps at least 3 concluding thoughts we can draw from this chapter.

3 Concluding Statement from 2 Kings 3 and Elisha Response to the 3 Kings:

- (1) **Beware who you align your life with** (2 Corinthians 6:14-16) – In this passage God's king in Judah, Jehoshaphat, had aligned himself with a wicked king, Jehoram and a pagan king, Edom... something Elisha was not willing to do. Elisha actually confronted this unholy alliance in verse 13-14. Remember again Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 6:14-16, *"¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God."* Believer's are to impact and reach the world (the lost) for Christ, not be influenced and impacted by the world.
- (2) **Don't wait until your life is in trouble before you seek the Lord** (Isaiah 55:6) – In this passage the wicked king of Israel, Jehoram, who claimed to be a worshipper of God, sought help from his earthly alliances thinking that would solve his problem. It wasn't until they found themselves in the wilderness of Edom dying of thirst and facing complete defeat that He turned to God... and that only through a king who really knew God, Jehoshaphat. Remember the admonition of God's Word in Isaiah 55:6, *"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near."*
- (3) **Sin and rebellion against God will not only hinder your prayers but your relationship with Him** (Isaiah 59:1-2) – Elisha's rebuke to Jehoram was particularly sharp/harsh, but may serve as a warning

to you and I that unconfess, unrepentant, and a disobedient and rebellion heart toward God may hinder or very relationship with God and his blessing on our life. Remember the Prophet Isaiah's words in Isaiah 59:1-2, *"¹Behold, the LORD's hand is not so short That it cannot save; neither is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. ²But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear."*