

Men's Bible Study Online Lesson 4/3/20

2 Kings 3

- 2 Kings 3: Moab Rebels Against Israel
 - Verses 1-3: A New King in Israel, Jehoram
 - Verse 1 - "Jehoram the son of Ahab became king" - Ahaziah, his brother, died without an heir (2 Kings 1:17), and so his brother is next in the line of succession.
 - Verses 2-3 - Jehoram is an evil king, though not as bad as his notorious parents (Ahab and Jezebel). The nature of his evil is the common one: idolatry.
 - Verses 4-8: Moab Rebels, Israel Responds
 - Verse 4 - "he had to deliver to the king of Israel" - Before Mesha rebels, Moab was a vassal of Israel, so they periodically owed Israel a tax.
 - Verse 5 - "when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled" - The story that started in 2 Kings 1:1 finally picks back up here.
 - Verses 6-8 - Jehoram does as his father Ahab had done: he joins in an alliance with the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
 - Verses 9-12: A Hasty Decision Lands the Armies in a Dilemma
 - Verse 9 - "So the king of Israel went" - Notice what is missing: there is no inquiry of the Lord before heading out.
 - Verse 9 - "there was no water" - The ESV Study Bible notes: "Unsurprisingly, a military venture undertaken without prophetic advice faces disaster."
 - Verse 10 - "The Lord has called these three kings" - The kings only consider the Yahweh as a factor in the whole story after they are in trouble.
 - Verse 11 - "Is there no prophet of the Lord here" - Jehoshaphat finally comes to his senses and realizes that they need to do what they should have done before departing: inquire of the Lord via his prophet.
 - Verses 13-20: The Lord Intervenes Through Elisha
 - Verse 13 - "Go to the prophets of your father..." - Elisha knows that these prophets and the gods they serve are impotent.
 - Verse 14 - "were it not that I have regard for Jehoshaphat" - Here the righteous King mediates God's favor for the rebellious people.
 - Verse 15 - "when the musician played, the hand of the Lord came upon him" - Hearing music was one of the various ways prophets received a word from the Lord.
 - Verses 16-20 - Elisha's prophetic utterance promises two things: a miraculous provision of water and victory over Moab. The first, less significant sign comes true the next morning, confirming that the second, greater sign will surely be fulfilled.
 - Verses 21-27: The Fulfillment of the Prophecy
 - Verses 21-24 - "the Moabites saw the water opposite them as blood" - Because the water was miraculously provided, the Moabites had no reason to think it was water (as if it had rained), but rather they assume their enemies had turned on each other and they rush (hastily) into the battle, leaving them vulnerable.
 - Verse 25 - Elisha's prediction is fulfilled word for word.
 - Verse 26-27 - The king of Moab tries to flee, but when he is unable he resorts to an abomination: sacrificing his heir to his god (Chemosh). The "great wrath" that results is intriguingly ambiguous.
- Lessons from 2 Kings 3
 - Rushing into hasty decisions without consulting the Lord often gets us in a mess
 - Even though we still (sometimes rebelliously) rush into a mess, God graciously rescues us
 - Jesus is the better mediator of God's favor
 - Reflection questions:
 - Do you make a habit of consulting God on big personal or family decisions?
 - Have you ever rushed into something and gotten yourself into a mess that God got you out of?