

## **SERMON OUTLINE**

### **STUDIES IN THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ELISHA**

#### **'Elisha: the messenger of salvation' - 3**

#### **2 Kings 3 v1 - 27**

Key Question of Introductory Application - What do you do in a crisis?

The background to this story is the crisis faced by kings Joram of Israel and Jehoshaphat of Judah having begun this campaign to crush the rebellious the king of Moab. See - verse 9. The situation they found themselves in was utterly impossible.

Key Point to remember whenever we find ourselves in 'impossible' situations. "For nothing is impossible with God" - Lk 1 v37. And this is the story of the gospel! Think of Jesus dying upon the cross - what could be more impossible than that?

Key Question - How did these two kings respond to this crisis situation? The response of Joram was that of unbelief - he blamed God. The response of Jehoshaphat was that of faith - he trusted God. Note - These are the great marks of unbelief and faith. Whilst unbelief blames the Lord, faith trusts the Lord - and on the basis of His Word, looks to the Lord to bring about the impossible.

#### **1. JORAM, AND THE RESPONSE OF UNBELIEF - BLAMING THE LORD**

Notice how Joram is described. See - v1 - 3. The key word in this description of him is the word - "nevertheless". That is, his sins weren't nearly as bad as the sins of his parents - nevertheless, he still sinned.

Application - Isn't this the very thing we hear people giving expression to today? 'I know that I'm not perfect - but at least I'm not as bad as.....' Notice the phrase in verse 2 - "he did evil in the eyes of the Lord." It's not what we see (what we think) as being wrong or bad that matters - it's what God sees and thinks and says that matters. See - Rom 3 v10 - and the degree of sin doesn't matter. This is why we need the gospel.

Note - Joram considered himself to be a Christian! See how he uses

the name of the Lord in verse 10. And yet - he blamed Him for what had happened.

## **2. JEHOSEPHAT, AND THE RESPONSE OF FAITH - TRUSTING THE LORD**

See - v11 - 12a. Notice the test of faith. See - v16. Why make ditches for water in the middle of a desert? God's word was believed - and it was fulfilled. See - v17 - 25.

Application - Ps 130 v5

### **BACK TO JORAM**

Key Verse - v13. Why did Elisha say this? Answer - Joram turned to the Lord, and to His word through Elisha, because it was convenient for him to do so! But was he converted? Not a bit of it!

### **WHAT ABOUT KING MESHACH?**

See - v26 - 27. This is paganism in the raw. It's the exact opposite of the Christian gospel. See - Rom 8 v32