### 2 Kings

## Chapter 3

1In the 18th year of King JehoShaphat of Judah, [King] JehoRam (son of Ahab) started his reign in IsraEl, and he reigned for 12 years.  
  
2He also acted wickedly in the eyes of Jehovah, but he wasn’t as bad as his father or mother, 3for he removed the columns of BaAl that his father had erected. However, he still hung onto and practiced the sins of JeroBoam (son of NaBat) who had led IsraEl into sin.  
  
  
4Now, King Mesha of MoAb was a shepherd, and he’d sent 100,000 lambs and 100,000 wooly rams to [Ahab] the king of IsraEl, as a good-will gesture. 5But after Ahab died, the king of MoAb ended his alliance with the kings of IsraEl.  
  
6So King JehoRam went from Samaria and took a census [of the army] of IsraEl, 7then he sent a message to King JehoShaphat of Judah, telling him:  
  
 ‘The king of MoAb has annulled his alliance with me. So, will you join me in a war against MoAb?’  
  
And he replied:  
  
 ‘I will… Since you and I are very much alike, and your people and my people [are related]. My horses are your horses!  
  
 8‘Which road do you want me to take?’  
  
And JehoRam replied:  
  
 ‘[Join me] on the road to the desert of Edom.’  
  
9So the king of IsraEl, the king of Judah, and the king of Edom went on a march against the king of MoAb that lasted 7 days. However, because they were marching in circles, they finally ran out of water and they no longer had enough for both their animals and their troops.  
  
10Then the king of IsraEl said:  
  
 ‘Did Jehovah call us three kings and send us here just to hand us over to MoAb?’  
  
11And JehoShaphat asked:  
  
 ‘Did you bring along a prophet of Jehovah?  
  
 ‘We should be asking him!’  
  
And one of the servants of the king of IsraEl said:  
  
 ‘We can go to EliSha son of ShaPhat, the one who used to serve EliJah.’  
  
12Then JehoShaphat asked:  
  
 ‘He does have Jehovah’s word.’  
  
So thereafter, the king of IsraEl, the king of Judah (JehoShaphat), and the king of Edom went to see him.  
  
13And EliSha asked King [JehoRam] of IsraEl:  
  
 ‘Why have you come here… Why don’t you go to the prophets of your father and mother?’  
  
But the king of IsraEl asked him:  
  
 ‘Has Jehovah called all three of us kings here just to hand us over to MoAb?’  
  
14And EliSha said:  
  
 ‘As Jehovah the God of armies (before whom I stand) lives...  
  
 ‘Were it not for the fact that King JehoShaphat of Judah is welcome here, I would never have bothered to see you.  
  
 15‘But now, bring me my harp.’  
  
Well, as he strummed his harp, the hand of Jehovah came over him 16and he said:  
  
 ‘This is the word of Jehovah:  
  
 ‘Dig cistern after cistern in the wadi,  
 17For, although the wind blows, it won’t rain,  
 But the wadi will still fill with water  
 For you, your men, and your animals.  
  
 18‘And because this is not a light matter  
 In the eyes of Jehovah;  
 I will give MoAb into your hands.  
  
 19‘But, you must destroy their fortified cities  
 And cut down all their good trees.  
 Then, stop up their wells and their springs,  
 And cover their land up with rocks.’  
  
20Well, the next morning, just after they’d offered sacrifices, {Look!} there was water running down the road to Edom, which covered the land!  
  
  
21Meanwhile, when the MoAbites heard that the three kings were coming to war against them, people started yelling all over the land and strapping on their [swords], then they all gathered for war along their borders.  
  
22But when they got up early the next morning and gazed at the sun rising over the water, it appeared to be fiery red… Like blood!  
  
23So they said:  
  
 ‘That’s blood from a battle!  
  
 ‘Those kings have clearly fought among themselves, and now they’re the spoils of MoAb!’  
  
24So the MoAbites then advanced towards the camp of IsraEl... [However, they were surprised] when IsraEl came out and attacked them!  
  
So they ran away, and IsraEl thereafter entered their land and destroyed MoAb, 25demolishing all their cities... And after that, each man picked up rocks and threw them over the good land, covering the ground with rocks, and they stopped up all the springs and wells.  
  
They also cut down all the good trees and broke the walls of the cities into rocks, then they surrounded the cities and pelted them with the rocks.  
  
26Well, when the king of MoAb realized that all was lost, he took 700 of his best men and tried to cut through the [lines of] the king of Edom, but he was unsuccessful... 27Then he [went back] and took his firstborn son (the one who was to be his successor) and sacrificed him as a whole burnt offering on his [city] wall.  
  
And since he’d offered his repentance to IsraEl in such a great way, they left his land and just went back home.