

**A STRATEGY, A SONG,
A SHOVEL & A SAVIOUR**

Elisha the Prophet

Background

Elisha's name means "My God is Salvation"

Elisha's message - "My God is Salvation"

Give your attention to God

A Strategy, a Song,
a Shovel & a Saviour

▶ Nothing new under the sun - Lack of planning



▶ 2 Kings 3:1-5

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.

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.

Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; he did not depart from them.



Now Mesha, king of Moab, was a sheep breeder, and he regularly paid the king of Israel one hundred thousand lambs and the wool of one hundred thousand rams.

But it happened, when Ahab died, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

▶ **2 Kings 3:6-8**

So King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel.

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."

BATTLE PLAN



by Kevin McCallister



- ▶ Moab will expect us from the North - so we will go south via the desert in Edom, and we will ask the King of Edom and his army to join us – what a great idea and a great team
- ▶ – an idol worshipper, a compromiser and a heathen joining forces ... we can't lose!

▶ 2 Kings 3:9-10

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. And the king of Israel said, "Alas! For the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab."



▶ 2 Kings 3:11-15a

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." 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.

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."

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."

▶ **2 Kings 3: 15-18**

But now bring me a musician.” Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the LORD came upon Elisha.

And he said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Make this valley full of ditches.’

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.’

And this is a simple matter in the sight of the LORD; He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand.

- Elisha took time out to worship, worship in Song to God, time to meditate and wait for God's answer in a time of need. Whatever the problem, it is a Spiritual thing.
- All things are spiritually sustained – the solar system, gravity, oxygen, water, magnetic fields.
- What is the power source that enables them to work?
- *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. **He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*** Col 1: v15-17

*The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, **sustaining all things by his powerful word**. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.* Heb 1:3

- Jesus is the power ...
- Busy, stressed, no time, in the middle of a situation?
- We need to make time to worship and listen to the Lord.
- Jesus spent time with the Father - took time out of His work.
- The solution of the water in answer to Elisha's request was an easy thing for the Lord.

2 Kings 3: 16

And he said, "Thus says the LORD: 'Make this valley full of ditches.'



The task

The tools: shovel

How you feel

What the kings want to see - results

Digging ditches

Leadership, preparing worship songs, prayer group, home group bible study, children church, serving, sound desk, camera recording, street witnessing, encouraging others, and more...

- Like digging ditches, is hard work.
- Like digging ditches, is done with faith in the future.
- Like digging ditches, is blessed beyond reasonable expectation.
- Like digging ditches, the work of often feels like work without reward.
- Like digging ditches, the work of comes from God's revelation.
- Like digging ditches, the work of will be criticized or doubted.
- Like digging ditches, the work of often seems unimpressive or unspectacular.

IT ALL FLOWS FROM A REVELATION OF GOD'S WORD FLOWING OUT FROM CHRIST IN US – *Not self-work*

▶ 2 Kings 3: 18-20

And this is a simple matter in the sight of the LORD; He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand. 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."



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.

► 2 Kings 3: 21-23

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.

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. And they said, "This is blood; the kings have surely struck swords and have killed one another; now therefore, Moab, to the spoil!"



Image – Christ Art

▶ 2 Kings 3: 24-27

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. 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. 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. 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.



When did this incredible miracle happen?



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.

... the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood. And they said, "This is blood"



Luke 22 v19-20

- *And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*
- *Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."*

John 3:16

- *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Heb 10: v12-14

- *But when this priest (Christ) had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice, he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*