

# **Elisha, the Prophet of Grace**

## **3) Grace On Top Of Grace**

***'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 sheepbreeder, 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...***

***'... 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." Then he said, "Which way shall we go up?" And he answered, "By way of the Wilderness of Edom"'***

**(2 Kings 3:1-8)**

- ✓ **This was a strange alliance between 3 kings**
- ✓ **Jehoram's parents were Ahab and Jezebel**
- ✓ **Jehoram was a wicked man. He was the ninth consecutive bad king over the Northern Kingdom, which never had a godly king**
- ✓ **He did not worship Baal, like his parents, but followed in the 'sins of Jeroboam'**

- ✓ **The Moabites lived on the eastern side of the Dead Sea, and were under tribute to Israel**
- ✓ **When King Ahab died, the king of the Moabites saw this as an opportunity to stop paying tax to the king of Israel**
- ✓ **Jehoshaphat was a godly king (1 Kings 22:41-43), who followed in the footsteps of his godly father Asa**
- ✓ **It seems strange that Jehoshaphat was willing to unite with Jehoram in this expedition, for he had been severely rebuked on an earlier occasion for joining with Ahab,**

*'Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and by marriage he allied himself with Ahab. After some years he went down to visit Ahab in Samaria; and Ahab killed sheep and oxen in abundance for him and the people who were with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramoth Gilead. So Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "Will you go with me against Ramoth Gilead?" And he answered him, "I am as you are, and my people as your people; we will be with you in the war"'*

**(2 Chr.18:1-3)**

✓ **He almost lost his life at this battle, and Jehu the prophet rebuked him, 'Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord?' (2 Chr.19:2)**

✓ **He didn't learn his lesson because he formed a *business* alliance with Ahab's son, Ahaziah**

✓ **Now, in this passage, he forms a *military* alliance with Jehoram, Ahaziah's brother**

✓ **Jehoram asked Jehoshaphat for advice because Jehoshaphat was more experienced in battle than Jehoram. The king of Judah advised going via the south, through the very dry desert of the Edomites. And the King of Edom joined them**



***'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." 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. But now bring me a musician." Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him'***

**(2 Kings 3:9-15)**

- ✓ **The course they took was meant to secure the support of the Edomites, but by going so far into the wilderness they were in a desert with no water. They were now all in danger of dying**
- ✓ **Jehoram's guilty conscience convinced him that this calamity was the judgment of God. He believed that God was to be avoided because of the crisis**
- ✓ **In contrast, Jehoshaphat believed that God should be sought because of the crisis. They went to Elisha**
- ✓ **He said to Jehoram, *'What have I to do with you?'* Elisha would have nothing to say to these kings except there was a godly king among them**

- ✓ **When Elisha wanted to become more sensitive to the leading and speaking of the Holy Spirit, he asked for the service of a musician. This demonstrates the great spiritual power in music**
- ✓ **The Hebrew word for 'minstrel' (KJV) signifies 'one who plays on a stringed instrument,' as an accompaniment to the psalm he sang**
- ✓ **We would have expected judgment upon the kings - they reaped what they had sown. But once again God's grace is magnified**

***'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. 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 3:16-20)**

**\*This was a strange promise. Water would be provided, but without any rain or storm. And all of a sudden the land was filled with water**

**\*The water was available to them only because they were obedient to dig the ditches**

**\**'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 3:20)***

**\*This hour was chosen to intimate to the whole company that their deliverance was secured on the ground of the sacrifices offered and the worship rendered in the temple in Jerusalem**



□  
**\*It was at the same hour that Elijah had made his effectual prayer on Mount Carmel when another notable miracle was wrought, 'And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near' (1 Kings 18:36)**

**\*So too it was at the hour of the evening oblation that a blessing was granted to Daniel '...while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering' (Dan.9:21)**

**\*God has no good thing for us apart from the finished work of Christ. But because of the cross He has abundant grace and blessing for us!**



***'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!" 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'***

**(2 Kings 3:21-29)**

**\*The ditches caught the water and saved the armies of these three kings from dehydration**

**\*But they were also the means of confusion and defeat to the enemies of the people of God. When they saw the sun shining on the water collected in the ditches, they saw a mirage and thought it was blood, from the three kings fighting each other**

**\*Grace upon grace**

**\*This shows how desperate the king of Moab was following his defeat on the field of battle. He did this to honor his pagan gods and to show his own people his determination to prevent defeat**