

## THE MIRACLE OF WATER AND THE MIRAGE OF BLOOD

2 Kings 3:1-27

- I. **THE PLANS** (7-9)—*worldly wisdom*
  - A. **Political Alliance**—King Joram of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah
    1. **Kinship**—they were relatives
      - a. **Ethnic**—all descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob
      - b. **History**—they used to be part of the same nation
      - c. **Marriage**—Jehoshaphat’s son married Ahab’s daughter; in-laws
    2. **Economy**—trade agreements benefit both kingdoms,
    3. **Common Enemy**—Moab
  - B. **Military Strategy** (8-9)—go the roundabout way
    1. **To Add the King of Edom**—Increase the military force
    2. **To Assure the Loyalty of Edom**—A vassal kingdom to Judah
    3. **To Employ the Element of Surprise**—Don’t expect attack from that direction
  
- II. **THE PROBLEM** (9)—*unforeseen complication, no water for the army and its animals*
  - A. **Thwarted by the Natural World**—no water; failure of an expected spring
  - B. **Limited by Human Weakness**—army cannot live, let alone fight, without water
  
- III. **THE PROVIDENCE** (Lam 3:37-38)—*God’s care, preparation, management, control*
  - A. **The Purpose of the Problem** (Deut 8:2; Joel 2:27; 2 Cor 12:9)
    1. **To humble them**—we are frail, finite, mortal. He is God and we are not.
    2. **To test their hearts**—actions & attitudes show what we really think of God
    3. **To display His power**—builds our faith

**B. The Presence of a Prophet (11)—God’s faithfulness, guidance, care**

1. **Humble** (11)—went unofficially, unassuming, unrecognized
2. **Bold** (13)—speaks truth bluntly to the king’s face  
→ *Righteousness is not the same thing as Niceness!*

**C. The Assistance of Nature (17, 20, 22; Lam 3:37-38)—Creation obeys the Creator**

1. **The Arrival of Water** (20)—flowing from Edom
2. **The Reflection of Color** (22)—red sunrise reflected in the pools of water
3. **The Use of Means**—God uses secondary causes; timing is the miracle

**D. The Confusion of the Enemy (22-24; Gen 11:7-8; Jud 7:22; 2 Sam 17:14; 1 Kng 12:14)—God has often used confusion to defeat His enemies.**

**IV. THE DIFFERENCE (Ex 15:11; Ps 89:6-8)--*respond according to belief about our gods***

**A. Between the Kings**

1. **King Joram of Israel** (10; Prov 19:3)—**pride and blame-shifting** (ungodly)
2. **King Jehoshaphat of Judah** (11, Jn 2:5; Js 4:6)—**humility and obedience** (godly)  
→ *If you want God to bless you, prepare by doing what He tells you to do!*
3. **King of Moab** (27)—**desperation and extreme sacrifice** (heathen)

**B. Between the Gods ()—Our character is shaped by the character of our gods.**

1. **Joram’s god** (2-3, 13)—**Self**; and assortment of contract gods
2. **Moab’s god** (26-27; Deut 12:31)—**Demonic-idol**; cruel, blood-thirsty
3. **Jehoshaphat’s God** (Ps 103:13-14)—**The LORD**; loves, listens, and provides