

## You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water

### READ II KINGS 3: 1-24

This is one of my very favourite passages in the Bible.

The historical scene is post Solomon, where Israel is divided into Judah (tribes of Judah and Benjamin) and Samaria (the rest ten tribes). Not only that each had their own rulers after the unified reign of Solomon. Sometimes they fought bitterly with each other, sometimes they were allies.

In this passage, we see Jehoshaphat the godly king of Judah and Jehoram the king of Samaria, who did evil, but not quite as evil as his parents Ahab and Jezebel, but evil like that of the first king Jeroboam v. 1-3. This verse beautifully fixes the degree of evil between evil and very evil.

Sometimes we live as though no one watches, but every deed of ours whether evil or good, are weighed and fixed in varying degrees. Think of that!

Now the action. Ahab dies and the kings whom he defeated now became bold and rebelled against his son Jehoram.

Jehoram wanted to prove his valour and justify his royal lineage, so he musters all Israel, and also calls on the help of the King of Judah- Jehoshaphat.

Jehoshaphat was one of the very few kings who did good in the sight of the Lord :

**2 Chronicles 17:3-6 ( NKJV )** <sup>3</sup>Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals, <sup>4</sup>but sought <sup>5</sup>the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel. <sup>5</sup>Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and he had riches and honor in abundance. <sup>6</sup>And his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD; moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah.

This Jehoshaphat was also the hero of winning a major war by setting forth a choir in the battle field singing, "The Lord is good and His mercy endures forever." (2 Chronicles 20)

But this good king chose to ally with a Jewish king, but the one who only did evil against the sight of the Lord : Ahab. He was foolish in his alliance. He almost died in a battle along with Ahab.

This is a great challenge to many of us, not to ally with those whose heart and every deed is against the heart of God, though they may outwardly profess to be called as the children of God.

How to find this out? Read more of the Word and pray more and pray more, seek for the gift of discernment.

Coming to the story again.

Ahab's son Jehoram calls Jehoshaphat to war against Moabites. Jehoshaphat without waiting upon the Lord, immediately assures every possible help pledging

**2 Kings 3:7 ( NKJV )**

**"I will go up; I *am* as you *are*, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."**

As I read this verse this morning what struck me was the similarity of sentence construction of what Ruth declared to her mother-in-law Naomi, "Your people are my people, your God is my God." (1,16)

But here in this pledge, Jehoshaphat substitutes God for horses. This is exactly the problem. Substituting horses in the place of God.

Throughout the Bible, horses mean human strength, effort, will and help. That is why in many verses we read the horse is prepared for battle but the victory is of the Lord(Proverbs 20,30), woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses..(Isaiah 31,1), a horse is a vain hope for safety, neither shall it deliver any by its great strength(Psalm 33, 17) and so on.

So Jehoshaphat, Jehoram and the King of Edom went to war against Moab. They decided on a way which was long. The three armies marched and marched and then there was one crucial common sense material that was not there- Water.

There are three kings- no water, there are multitudes of warriors - no water, many horses- no water.

What use is a horse, without water?

In the same moment all think about God. Coincidence or necessity?

And it so happened that there was also Elisha nearby.

When water made the kings remember God, they naturally remembered His prophet.

**2 Kings 3:11-12 ( NKJV )** <sup>11</sup>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.”  
<sup>12</sup>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.

But Elisha was a prophet of The Great God and not the prophet of the masses.

The three kings stood before him fearfully and reverentially.

Elisha scolds the kings as though they are messed up school children. His anger is towards Jehoram

**2 Kings 3:13-15 ( NKJV )** <sup>13</sup>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.”  
<sup>14</sup>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.” <sup>15</sup>But now bring me a musician.”

Can you imagine a prophet reprimanding a King because of his parents’ disobedience to God. He tells Jehoram that he does not want to see his face. But then because of Jehoshaphat , Elisha relents.

Where are the prophets whose remote dwellings attract three Kings to his doorstep?

Where are the prophets who can dare a king not to show his face?

They were set apart, lived with God alone, knew Him better than anybody else and so can beat the daylights out of 3 Kings with a multitude of army.

After his anger, his heart is moved and surrounded with music he tunes his heart to the heart of God and then says these famous lines :

<sup>16</sup>And he said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Make this valley full of ditches.’”  
**2 Kings 3:17-18 ( NRSV )** <sup>17</sup>For thus says the LORD, ‘You shall see neither wind nor rain, but the wadi(valley) shall be filled with water, so that you shall drink, you, your cattle, and your animals.’ <sup>18</sup>This is only a trifle in the sight of the LORD, for he will also hand Moab over to you.

Filling a full valley with water for all the armies and the animals is a trifle in the sight of the Lord and that too without any rain nor wind, the two known bringers of water.

But the Lord asked them to cut channels for the water to flow. Quite a difficult test of faith. You are already parched and now to dig a channel for water no one knows from where it will come.

Yet they dug the channels and the water sure did come and read further to know what happened.

Most often God will always bring blessings silently and from ways which we never expected. I am sure most of you will nod a yes. God's ways are on waters and we may never see His footprints(Psalm 77,19).

Yet the blessing came. But the Lord expects us to trust and to dig channels. If we are not prepared the blessing may flow over and be wasted.

The Lord will bless, but we need the preparedness to receive it.

I pray that you receive your silent blessing which comes by way of Edom and keep it and make it flow to others.

God bless.

How long Lord, before you drench our barren land and fill it with your streams of living water?

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=qdPT4EvYUHM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=qdPT4EvYUHM)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpCznC4EzWM> (same song by Petra)