

Elijah and Elisha

#14, valley of trenches – II Kings 3:1-27

This lesson is an account of a coalition of the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom. in a battle against Moab.

1 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. 2 He did evil in the sight of the Lord, though not like his father and his mother; for he put away the *sacred* pillar of Baal which his father had made. 3 Nevertheless, he clung to the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin; he did not depart from them.

4 Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and used to pay the king of Israel 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams. 5 But when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

6 And King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel. 7 Then he went and sent word to Jehoshaphat the 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 He said, "Which way shall we go up?" And he answered, "The way of the wilderness of Edom."

[1.] v:2-3, Jot down the descriptions of Jehoram's reign.

[2.] v:4, Mesha king of Moab, **What ransom or protection money was paid to Israel by Moab?**

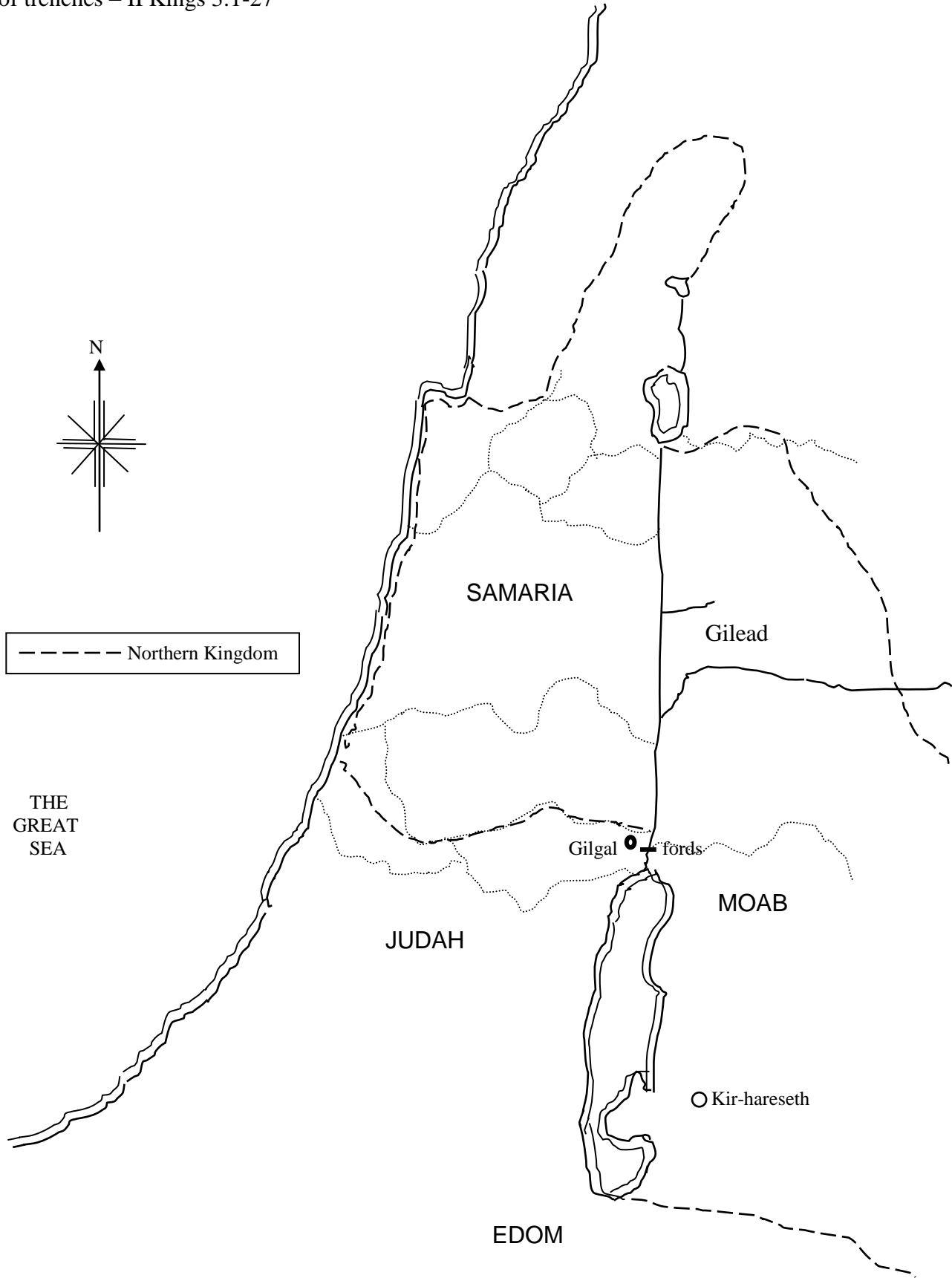
[3.] v:5, Moab rebelled, **What might have Mesha assumed after Ahab's death?**

[4.] v:6-7, Will you go with me, **For whatever the reason, Jehoram didn't want to go against Moab alone. Recall and jot down how his grandfather Ahab fared against Ben-Hadad (I Ki 20) when the Lord was with him.**

[5.] v:8, The way of the wilderness of Edom, **On your map (Pg#2) draw a line that shows the route the combined armies would take.**

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9 So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom; and they made a circuit of seven days' journey, and there was no water for the army or for the cattle that followed them.

ford, A shallow place in a river or other body of water which may be crossed on foot or by wading. The fords of the Jordan are frequently mentioned. A little above the Dead Sea two fords cross the Jordan near Jericho, passable for the most of the year, connecting roads from the Judean hills with highways from Gilead and Moab. The passage from Samaria into Gilead was made easy by an extraordinary number of fords through the Jordan. The depth of the Jordan fords varies from three feet to as much as ten or twelve.

Unger's Bible Dictionary

10 Then the king of Israel said, "Alas! For the Lord has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab."

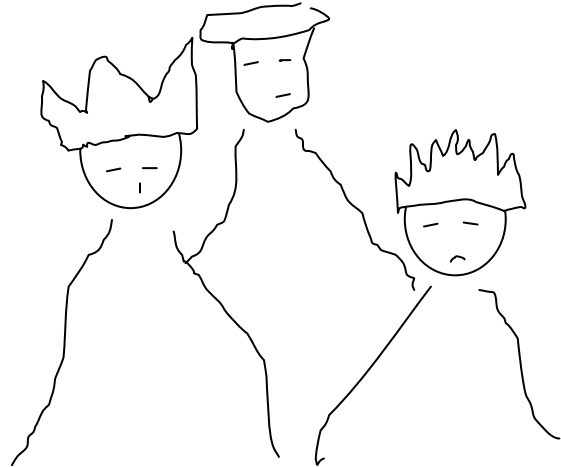
[6.] v:9, seven days, Having looked at your map you can see that, to get to Moab, the kings chose "the long way". In your opinion, why wouldn't they just push both armies across the ford near Jericho and Gilgal?

[7.] v:10, three kings, It seems another king was added. Why might you think that the king of Israel planned this all along?

[8.] v:10 again, Alas! For the Lord, At this point, who did Jehoram, king of Israel, blame when the campaign seemed to go sour?

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11 But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not a prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of the Lord by him?" And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who used to pour water on the hands of Elijah." 12 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.

13 Now Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What do I have to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and to the prophets of your mother." And the king of Israel said to him, "No, for the Lord has called these three kings together to give them into the hand of Moab."

[9.] v:11, Is there not a prophet, As a believer, when things get tough, select the type of person you want next to you?

- a) the king of Israel
- b) Jehoshaphat
- c) the king of Israel's servant

[10.] v:11-12, Elisha, Why do you suppose Elisha was present with the army and not back in Samaria?

[11.] v:12, The word of the Lord is with him, Jehoshaphat seemed to know God. Who had the other two been worshipping?

[12.] v:13, prophets of your father, Describe what Elisha was saying by the statement.

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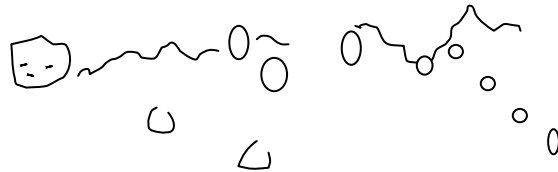
14 Elisha said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look at you nor see you.

15 "But now bring me a minstrel." And it came about, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him.

[13.] v:13 again, the Lord has called, Why do you think that the king of Israel is sticking to that assumption?

[14.] v:14, that I regard, If the king of Israel were alone in this campaign, why do you feel, he wouldn't be able to rely on the Lord's help?

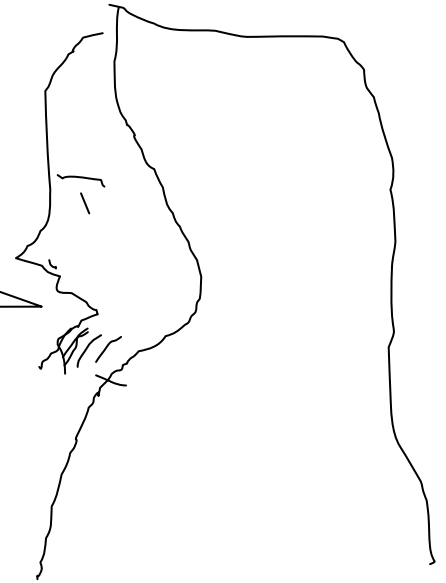
[15.] v:15, the minstrel played, Considering the noise and language there would have been in the middle of three armies why might Elisha just need to relax and think?



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16 He said, "Thus says the Lord, 'Make this valley full of trenches.' 17 "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 shall drink, both you and your cattle and your beasts. 18' This is but a slight thing in the sight of the Lord; He will also give the Moabites into your hand. 19' Then you shall strike every fortified city and every choice city, and fell every good tree and stop all springs of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones.' "



[16.] v:16-17, Thus says the Lord, **The armies were to dig trenches on the battle field. Then what was promised to happen?**

[17.] v:18-19, Then you shall, **What were the armies to do next?**

[18.] v:20-23, It happened in the morning, **As they gazed across the valley, and saw the water, what did the Moabites think happened?**

20 It happened in the morning about the time of offering the sacrifice, that behold, water came by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water.

21 Now all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them. And all who were able to put on armor and older were summoned and stood on the border. 22 They rose early in the morning, and the sun shone on the water, and the Moabites saw the water opposite them as red as blood.

23 Then they said, "This is blood; the kings have surely fought together, and they have slain one another. Now therefore, Moab, to the spoil!"

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24 But when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites arose and struck the Moabites, so that they fled before them; and they went forward into the land, slaughtering the Moabites.

25 Thus they destroyed the cities; and each one threw a stone on every piece of good land and filled it. So they stopped all the springs of water and felled all the good trees, until in Kir-hareseth only they left its stones; however, the slingers went about it and struck it.

26 When the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took with him 700 men who drew swords, to break through to the king of Edom; but they could not.

27 Then he took his oldest son who was to reign in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering on the wall. And there came great wrath against Israel, and they departed from him and returned to their own land.

[19.] v:24-25, when they came, **What did their error cost the Moabites?**

[20.] v:26-26, battle was too fierce, **After suffering defeat, what did the king of the Moab try to do?**

[21.] v:27, his oldest son, **Who did the Moabites blame for the loss of their future king?**

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NOTES