



## Lesson 133

# Elisha and the Blood-Red Water

### Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Text:</b> 2 Kings 3:1-27</li> <li>• <b>Setting:</b> circa 845 B.C., in Edom and Moab</li> <li>• <b>Main Characters:</b> God, Elisha, Jehoram, Jehoshaphat, and Mesha</li> <li>• <b>Plot:</b> The Moabites rebel against Israel, inciting an invasion of their country by Israel, Judah, and Edom.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key word(s):</b> “And this is but a _____ thing in the sight of the LORD:” (v 18)</li> <li>• <b>Climax:</b> <i>2 Kings 3:22 And they rose up early in the morning, and the sun shone upon the water, and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood:</i></li> </ul> |
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## Ahab Succeeded

1. The Kings of Israel and Judah thus far have been:
  - (a) **Judah:** David → Solomon → Rehoboam → Abijah → Asa → \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) **Israel:** Jeroboam → Nadab → Baasha → Elah → Zimri → Omri → Ahab → Ahaziah → \_\_\_\_\_ (Joram)
  
2. (vv 1-3) After the death of Ahab, and during the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat's reign in Jerusalem, Jehoram became ruler of Israel. Jehoram was a wicked king whose only merit was putting away the pillar of Baal that his father had put up. Jehoram, however, continued to worship in the way of \_\_\_\_\_.

## A Prophet Needed

3. (vv 4-9) Ahab's death was an opportunity for Mesha, the king of Moab, to rebel against Israel's regional dominance. Moab was under tribute since the reign of Omri. Jehoram requested military assistance from Jehoshaphat's kingdom to bring the Moabites back under control. Jehoshaphat wholeheartedly consented. Even the \_\_\_\_\_ joined the operation.
  - (a) (vv 9-12) After seven days of marching through the wilderness of Edom, the three armies were depleted of food and water supplies. Jehoram exclaimed, “Alas! that the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab!” But Jehoshaphat wanted to inquire of a true prophet of God before giving up. The three kings sought \_\_\_\_\_ counsel.
  - (b) (vv 13-20) When in the prophet's presence, Elisha had harsh words for the wicked Jehoram: “***What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother,***” and, “***were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee.***” But nevertheless, Elisha

sought the LORD's guidance and shared it with the three kings: God would provide not only water, but also victory. But first, they must dig \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the valley.

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## The Moabites Defeated

4. (vv 21-24) As Elisha had prophesied, water filled the ditches the army had dug. The early morning light coupled with the red sandstone terrain and the unfamiliar trenches gave the water a \_\_\_\_\_ color and caused the Moabites to assume the three kings had attacked each other and their respective armies had killed each other off. The Moabites rushed to take the spoil only to be caught off guard by three armies who were intact, refreshed, and ready to fight.
5. (vv 25-27) The armies of Israel, Judah, and Edom continued to smash the Moabites all the way to their capital city Kir-haraseth.
  - (a) As Mesha's defenses began to crumble, he made a last-ditch effort to appease his gods – atop the city wall he sacrificed his oldest \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) The wrath against Israel came from the angry and desperate \_\_\_\_\_; Mesha's atrocity brought an end to the siege of Kir-haraseth.

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## Application

6. Matthew Henry notes, "...it was [Jehoram] that had called these kings together; yet he charges it upon Providence, and reflects upon that as unkind: The Lord has called them together. Thus the foolishness of man perverteth his way, and then his heart \_\_\_\_\_ against the Lord, Prov. 19:3."<sup>1</sup>

***Proverbs 19:3 The foolishness of man perverteth his way: And his heart fretteth against the LORD.***

7. The ditches filled with water not only gave sustenance to the armies of Israel and Judah but also delivered their enemies into their hands; likewise, Christ is both our means of sustenance for spiritual life and \_\_\_\_\_ from evil.

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Answer Key:** Key word(s): "light" • 1. a) Jehoshaphat; b) Jehoram • 2. Jeroboam • 3. Edomites; a) Elisha's; b) ditches • 4. red • 5. a) son; b) Moabites • 6. fretteth • 7. deliverance

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**How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study:** (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

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<sup>1</sup> Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print..