

Valley of Ditches

2 Kings 3

by Don Falkos

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The kings of Israel, Judah, and Edom joined forces to quash a Moabite rebellion. After a roundabout, seven-days march, they discovered they had no more water. Jehoram of Israel exclaimed, "This is terrible. Has the Lord brought us together only to let Moab defeat us?"

Jehoshaphat of Judah asked, "Is there a prophet of the Lord here we could consult?"

One of Jehoram's officers said, "Elisha is here. He used to be Elijah's servant."

The three kings went to speak to Elisha, who said, "As surely as the Lord Almighty lives, whom I serve, if not for my respect for Jehoshaphat king of Judah I wouldn't even acknowledge you. Now bring me a harpist."

The harpist played, and Elisha said, "Dig until this dry valley is full of ditches. There will be no wind or rain, but this valley will fill with water. You will have plenty for yourselves and your animals. And the Lord will give you victory over Moab."

They dug, and early the next morning there it was – water flowing from the direction of Edom. Soon there was water everywhere.

When the Moabites looked toward the approaching armies, the sun was shining on the water, making it appear red, like blood. They assumed the three armies must have killed each other. But when they went to collect plunder they were attacked, chased back into Moab, and utterly defeated.

In desperation the king of Moab took his oldest son, who would have been the next king, and sacrificed him hoping to alter the course of the battle. But nothing changed.

Town after town fell to the armies of Israel, Judah, and Edom.