

A flash flood of blessing... suddenly!

Opening text: 2 Kings 3:1, 7-20

This is the story of 3 kings who went out to war against a 4th king who was their enemy. Kings in those days were constantly fighting their enemies. There was no 'United Nations' and no precise, laid-out borders, so there were constant fights for dominion.

I would like to highlight a few important lessons from this passage:

1. The futility of man's counsel

Verse 8: *Then he said, "Which way shall we go up?" And he answered, "By way of the Wilderness of Edom."*

- a) **Which way...?** a question directed at another man and a decision made based purely on the basis of another man's advice. A good idea may not always be a God idea.

Proverbs 14:12 – *"There is a way that seems right to man but its end is the way of death"*

- b) **The results: V.9** - *the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom, and they marched on that roundabout route seven days; and there was no water for the army, nor for the animals that followed them*

- They started literally going around in circles, getting nowhere near where they were supposed to go
- They couldn't find the enemy they had come to fight
- 7 days went by and they were now running out of water and running out of time.
- Their delay was costing them. By now they were vulnerable and coming to the end of their hope.

2. The futility of man's efforts outside God.

- a) They relied on the strength of their alliance and they relied on the odds: 3 to 1.

- b) However, the reality was that

- They had everything to win but were experiencing delay and possible defeat
- They could not really 'put their finger on the situation'. The Apostle Paul in the NT called that *"fighting as beating the air"*
- There was still an enemy out there undetected and undefeated

3. The futility of man's plans without the knowledge of the will and the plan of God.

This was not the first time that the King of Israel had asked Jehoshaphat for help. We read about that in 1 Kings 22:5. However, that first time, Jehoshaphat asked God for guidance and for His will, before committing to help. That was not the case here. They relied on their own counsel and just went for it.

We can sometimes look at past victories and become overconfident to the point that we think we can do it without God.

4. I believe that the greatest lesson of this story of that when God is central to what we do, then delay is broken, disaster averted, and the enemy is defeated.

In **verse 11**, they finally make the decision that changed everything. They realised that they had to bring God into the equation. They had to stop and go back to what should have been the first step. That is still the decision that can make all the difference in anyone's life.

Verse 11 - *But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there no prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of the Lord by him?"*

- a) Not too late to make the right decision

The distance between loss and victory was bridged immediately - all because of that one decision.

Failure is not fatal if we're prepared to go back to basics, acknowledge that we need God and make room for Him.

- b) On the brink of a disaster, running out time... but they made time for God

Verse 15 - *But now bring me a musician." Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him.*

Everything had to stop for that worship session. We don't really know how long it lasted. What we see is that God had to be put first and approached in the right way.

God has to come first. You will never come second or last, for putting Him first (Matthew 6:33) - nor will you ever run out of time if you give Him time.

The word of the Lord does not come by pressing a button but through relationship and worship (**Acts 13:2** - *"as they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Spirit said..."*).

- c) God gave them a promise that required faith.

Verses 16-18 - *And he said, "Thus says the Lord: 'Make this valley full of ditches.' " 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, your cattle, and your animals may drink.’¹⁸ And this is a simple matter in the sight of the Lord; He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand.

- It required faith: *dig trenches*. They had to step out in faith.
- *You shall not see* (we walk by faith and not by sight)
- *You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water* – God will override the signs that precede rainfall and will get straight to what you need: water (now that is acceleration)!
- *And this is a simple matter in the sight of the Lord* – This is what God thinks of our impossibilities.

d) God gave them a flash flood of blessing: SUDDENLY!

Verse 20: ²⁰*Now it happened in the morning, when the grain offering was offered, that **suddenly** water came by way of Edom, and the land was filled with water.*

Isaiah 48:3 NLT - *Long ago I told you what was going to happen. Then **suddenly** I took action, and all my predictions came true.*

In closing...

As we have been studying over the past few weeks, we have entered a season of divine acceleration! As we put God first and seek Him for His word and for His voice in every decision, we believe that He will cause every promise to come to pass. We will not be going around the roundabout over and over again, we will not experience delay, we will not run out of resources but we believe in a flash-flood of blessings, suddenly, in 2019!