

Setting

Locate the following places on the Bible map:

- Judah
- Israel
- Samaria
- Edom
- Kir-hareseth
- Moab

Key Terms and People

Jehoram: Sometimes called “Joram,” ninth king of the Northern Kingdom (Israel). Reigned 852–841 B.C.

Jehoshaphat: Son and successor of Asa, fourth king of the Southern Kingdom (Judah). Reigned 871–849 B.C.

Mesha: King of Moab who rebelled against Israel’s subjugation.

Elisha: Successor to Elijah. His name means “My God is Salvation.”

Story Moments

Moab’s Rebellion

3:1–3. When does Jehoram become king in Samaria and how long does he reign? _____

Who is Jehoram related to? Why is this significant? _____

How would you describe his reign in Israel? _____

To whom does the author compare Jehoram? _____

See 1 Kings 12:25–31 for the background on Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

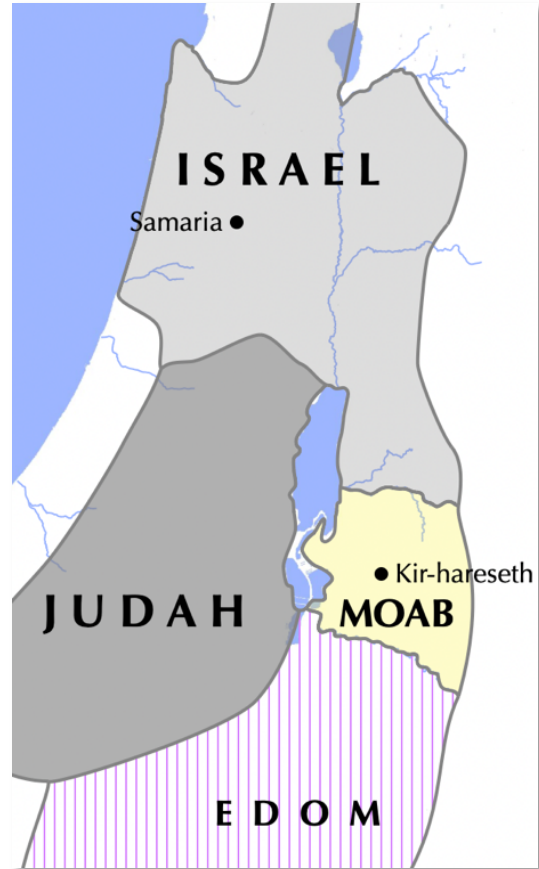
3:4–5. What did the Northern Kingdom require of the nation of Moab? _____

What event in Israel’s history takes place just before Moab’s rebellion? _____

3:6–8. How does King Jehoram respond to Moab’s rebellion? _____

To whom does he reach out and what is his request? _____

What way does Jehoram say they will attack Moab? Through the Wilderness of _____.



Draw on the map the route the armies took to get to Moab.

Appeal to Elisha

3.9. What additional king do Jehoram and Jehoshaphat include in their march towards Moab? _____

What problems do they encounter along the way? _____

Note: “marched on that roundabout route” (NKJV) is literally “to march around.” The armies seem to have either lost their way to Moab, or the journey had taken much longer than expected.

3:10. What fear do they have? _____

3:11–12. What question does Jehoshaphat ask in 3:11? _____ ?

What does he say about Elisha in 3:12? _____

3:13–15. Describe Elisha’s attitude towards the kings (in particular, the kings of Edom and Israel): _____

What does Elisha request? _____

3:16–17. What command does Elisha give and why? _____

3:18–19. What does Elisha say is a “simple matter” for the Lord? _____

The Attack on Moab

3:20–23. How is the word of Elisha (from 3:16) fulfilled? _____

What do the Moabites think has occurred? Why do they come to this conclusion? _____

3:24–27. The armies of Israel and Judah overthrow every city except _____.

What does the king of Moab and his seven hundred soldiers attempt to do? _____

What does the king of Moab do in his desperation? _____

After this terrible event, the Bible tells us, “there was a great indignation (or wrath) against Israel” leading to Israel’s retreat from battle. This means either that Israel retreated in disgust at the horror of the king’s sacrifice or that the Moabites unleashed wrath on Israel after being motivated by this wicked act. Either way, this event stands as a warning to those who follow the Lord about the depths of depravity that follow false worship.

Ask Yourself

Initially the kings failed to seek the Lord, and they wandered in the wilderness for seven days as a result. Is seeking the Lord my first reaction or my last resort?

The things that seem impossible to us are a “simple matter” for the Lord. What problems seem insurmountable in my life right now? How can I cast these cares on Jesus today (1 Peter 5:7)?

Study Helps

Kings of Judah and Israel

<i>Dates (approx.)</i>	<i>Unified Kingdom</i>			<i>Dates (approx.)</i>	
1051–1011	<i>House of Saul</i>	Saul	<i>House of Saul</i>	1051–1011	
1011–971	<i>House of David</i>	David	<i>House of David</i>	1011–971	
971–931		Solomon		971–931	
	<i>Southern Kingdom</i>		<i>Northern Kingdom</i>		
931–915	<i>House of David</i>	Rehoboam	Jeroboam I	<i>House of Jeroboam</i>	931–911
915–912		Abijam	Nadab		911–910
912–871		Asa	Baasha	<i>House of Issachar</i>	910–887
			Elah		887–886
				Zimri	
871–849		Jehoshaphat	Omri	<i>House of Omri</i>	886–875
849–842	Jehoram (Joram)	Ahab	875–853		
		Ahaziah	853–852		
		Joram (Jehoram)		852–841	