

God Time Day 1: Seeing a “Mean” God When in Need



This week we will see how God works through a seemingly impossible situation to reveal Himself. Three allied kings have set out to attack the land of Moab who has rebelled against the king of Israel. On their journey, they marched far into the desert and ran out of water. In our God Time Days 1 & 2 we will find a major contrast between how the kings of Israel and Judah see the situation.



Read 2 Kings 3:10.

Then the king of Israel said, “Oh no, the Lord has summoned these three kings, only to hand them over to Moab.”

Because he does not trust God, the king of Israel sees a hopeless situation. He assumes all is lost and that God either caused the impending disaster or is powerless to help.

When you face a seemingly impossible situation, what does your attitude say about your trust in God?

God Time Day 2: Seeing a Good God When in Need



Unlike the unbelieving king of Israel from Day 1, Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, doesn’t start with the assumption that God is hostile. Instead, he focuses on seeking guidance from the Lord.



Read 2 Kings 3:11.

But Jehoshaphat said, “Isn’t there a prophet of the Lord here? Let’s inquire of the Lord through him.”

Instead of assuming the worst and giving up hope, Jehoshaphat believes God can at least bring clarity to this seemingly impossible situation. He doesn’t waste energy blaming but seeks God’s intention.

What challenge are you facing where you need to stop blaming and start seeking God’s guidance for clarity?

God Time Day 3: When God Speaks



Even after the kings send for the prophet Elisha, the unbelief of the king of Israel prevents him from being able to hear from God. Only because of the faith of the king of Judah does Elisha even agree to seek God’s answer to their situation. When the answer comes, it makes clear that God can do more than they even imagine.



Read 2 Kings 3:16-19 (CEV).

¹⁶ *The Lord says that this dry riverbed will be filled with water.*

¹⁷ *You won't feel any wind or see any rain, but there will be plenty of water for you and your animals.* ¹⁸ *That simple thing isn't all the Lord is going to do. He will also help you defeat Moab's army.*

¹⁹ *You will capture all their walled cities and important towns. You will chop down every good tree and stop up every spring of water, then ruin their fertile fields by covering them with rocks.*

The prophet’s words make clear that rescuing the allied armies from dying of thirst in the desert is just a simple thing for God – even though the unbelievers had given up hope.

Underline what else God says He will also do. (v.18)

Compare that to what the king of Israel believed in verse 10 on Day 1 (and v. 13).

How does this promise from God reframe the planned attack on Moab?

Whenever God speaks, it always results in one of two possible responses:

- 1) We obey and open our hearts to His goodness.
- 2) We refuse to listen and harden our hearts against Him.



In the challenge you are facing right now, how are you responding to what God says about it? Are you moving forward in faith and obedience or stubbornly holding on to self-determination?

God Time Day 4: Riding on God's Coattails



The account in 2 Kings is far from the only one in the Bible where God opens a miraculous path forward and His people follow along in His wake.

Here are some other well-known examples:

- The Israelites crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 14:10-31)
- The conquest of Jericho once the walls fell (Joshua 6)
- The defeat of Midian which began with the enemy fighting themselves (Judges 7)
- Throwing the Philistine army into confusion with a thunderstorm (1 Samuel 7)

This pattern of "God acts, and His people follow" is so frequent in both biblical history and church history that many regard this as a rule of faith: "Find where God is working and join Him." Only when we join what God is already doing will we see great and lasting victories.

Living this faith rule begins with how we look at the world around us. Review the contrast between the kings of Israel and Judah on Days 1 & 2. Only one sought an answer from God regarding their impossible situation. One looked at his circumstances and became a victim, while the other looked to God for a solution.

As you look at the state of our world, it would be easy to feel hopeless – that it's impossible to make any significant difference. But that is not the way of faith!



Take some time and consider where you see God at work around you. Describe one way that you can align yourself with how you see God working:

Commit to pursuing what you see as your ministry, pouring fuel on God's fire. (Journal the results. This is important.)

God Time Day 5 – Believe Big, Start Small



In this week's lesson (2 Kings 3:9-20), God's provision first becomes visible right about the time of the morning sacrifice. In yet another battle involving King Jehoshaphat, God brought about a victory to the sound of the people singing God's praises. The full account is in 2 Chronicles 20:15-22, below are some highlights.



Read 2 Chronicles 20:15b,17, 21-22 (NIV)
¹⁵ This is what the Lord says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. ¹⁷ You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.'

²¹ After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

"Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever."

²² As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

Once the battle was over, there was so much plunder that it took the people three whole days to carry it away (v.25). But this great victory began with a fear of the enemy and a plea to God to act. Each step of the way, as the people trusted God's word, they experienced increasing levels of confidence and victory as they obeyed and gave praise.



It may be very difficult at first, but in what ways can you offer praises to God regarding the challenge you are facing?

While it may seem like a small step, how has your attitude towards the challenge and your faith been affected by the decision to give God praise in this situation?
