



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS INC.

www.bibleradio.org.au

BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1542 ~ Ditches of Water for the Warriors.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Back in 1965, a 47-year old French lawyer made a deal with a woman who was 90 years old to pay her \$500 a month until her death, for securing the ownership of her apartment. Such was a common practice in France which benefited both buyers and seniors who were on a fixed income. The lawyer didn't expect the old lady to live on for much longer. But Jeanne Calment lived on for another 32 years! She lived alone until she was almost 110, then she moved into a nursing home and survived until she was 122 years and 5 months. She outlived the lawyer by 19 months, and ended up being paid double what her apartment was worth by the lawyer and his estate!

In the New Testament letter of James, Chapter 4, we are advised not to presume what the future will hold but rather, seek the Lord's will in everything. Being overconfident or rash in decision making will cause mistakes, as the king of Moab in today's *Bible Adventure* found out to his ruin.

After King Ahab had died, King Mesha of Moab rebelled against paying tribute to Israel. The Moabites were descendents of Lot, Abraham's nephew. Their country was located with the Dead Sea on its west and the wilderness on its eastern border.

Ahab's first son and heir to the throne Ahaziah did nothing about King Mesha's rebellion in his short reign of two years. He was succeeded on the throne by his brother Jehoram, also known as Joram. Joram called on Jehoshaphat, king of Judah and a relative by marriage, to help him bring Moab back to subjection under him. At that time, the land of Edom south of Moab was paying tribute to Judah. So the three kings formed an alliance to attack Moab and devised a plan of going around the southern end of the Dead Sea. When they arrived there, however, they faced an unforeseen problem.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

Elisha was with the alliance of the three armies going to war with Moab. When an urgent need for water for soldiers and animals arose, King Joram of Israel approached Elisha for help. But Elisha rebuked the king for his loyalty to Baal and not to God.

The presence of King Jehoshaphat in the alliance was Elisha's only motivation to help the kings in their plight. God still kept an ongoing presence of power and authority in Judah for the sake of God's earlier promises to David. However, some people don't learn from their mistakes so they repeat them. King Jehoshaphat of Judah had previously gone to battle with Ahab. He had found himself the royal target on the battle field after Ahab had discarded his kingly robes for a common soldier's uniform. Once again Jehoshaphat went out to battle with a king of Israel when he shouldn't have done so.

The lack of water reminded all three kings that God was in control and that their combined power meant nothing without Him. The same water problem that God overcame to bring salvation to the three armies was the same thing that brought defeat to the overconfident Moab army. If only the Moabite army had stopped to consider why there were no dead enemy soldiers lying around, they would have been much more careful. Considering the risks of failure should enhance the likelihood of success. Moab's greed for the spoils of war filled their minds and they didn't act cautiously.

The Moabites were once considered a proud people but their race seems to have died out after the time of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. The most famous Bible person to come out of Moab was Ruth, the daughter-in-law of Naomi. She became the great grandmother of King David in times earlier than today's battle against Moab.

The history of alliances and combat between the different nations in this region seemed to depend on which country had the dominant power within each generation. Certainly if one nation could keep another subject to them by paying tribute, it was good income that they didn't have to work for themselves.

We must all learn to choose our battles. Some are not worth fighting and others too draining. These prevent us from doing the really important things God wants us to do. Also, when we join forces with those who don't love God, we can never predict what will happen that might embarrass or offend us, or even disgrace the Lord's name.

Overconfidence is best described as unjustified faith in one's own thoughts and abilities. This trap often considers only the best-case scenario and ignores any possible difficulties. We must not overconfidently take matters into our own hands and then expect God to bless the results. Rather, when we have difficulties, we are instructed in the Bible to bring them to God and seek His leading and solutions for them. Overconfidence without God's direction, which is also known as presuming on God, is a sin and we shouldn't take part in it.

Back in Israel after the battle, King Joram took Elisha's warning of God's judgment but only half-heartedly. He got rid of the image of Baal but not the golden calves that were originally set up when Israel split from Judah. People who do not truly repent or reform from their sins only forsake those sins they lose out on. Where they can, they'll continue to love and practise the sins they think they'll gain by.

Joram never gave his total loyalty to God. The temptation to think and act independently of God often comes to us all. However, the Lord Jesus sought His Father's will in everything, and was obedient to God's plan for Him.

When Satan came to tempt Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus answered him from the Scriptures. Not only did Jesus believe all the Old Testament Scriptures to be true, but that they were necessary in combating temptation. We need to soak our minds in all of the Bible. Then when temptations come or decisions need to be made, God's Holy Spirit will bring out to our minds the right words for the right occasion.

In the Garden of Eden, when Satan tempted Eve to eat some of the forbidden fruit she recalled what God had said. But Eve didn't hold onto total loyalty to God in her heart. She moved away from obedience and trust in God to doubting Him. She took the fruit believing there was an important life truth that God had deliberately held back from her. What a big mistake she made! God is always good, and He knows what is best for each one of us. He lives using an eternal perspective and has our whole lives in His hands.

Have you been disloyal to the Lord Jesus in your thinking and words? Ask for forgiveness right away. Tear down those secret sins you continue to practise whenever you can. God deserves all your loyalty, just as Christ showed He did.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

< END OF SCRIPT >
