

# 2 Kings 3:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said, This is blood: the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil.

## Analysis

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**And they said, This is blood: the kings are surely slain, and they have smitten one another: now therefore, Moab, to the spoil.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 3: God's faithfulness despite human unfaithfulness. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. During this period, Israel and Judah struggled with persistent idolatry, particularly Baal worship introduced under Ahab and Jezebel.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

## Historical Context

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**Historical Setting:** 2 Kings 3 takes place during the Elisha prophetic ministry, approximately 850-800 BCE. The chapter's theme (Moabite Rebellion and God's Deliverance) reflects the historical reality of God's compassionate provision through prophetic miracles while both kingdoms struggled with persistent idolatry. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical

account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 3 regarding god's faithfulness despite human unfaithfulness?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמְרוּ	זֶה דָּם	זֶה הֵאָדָם	נֶחְרָבוּ	נֶחְרָבוּ	הַמְּלָכִים
And they said	This is blood	H2088	are surely	are surely	the kings
H559	H1818		H2717	H2717	H4428
וְכָּוּ	אֶחָד	אֶת	רֵעֵהוּ	וְעַתָּה	לְשָׁלַל
and they have smitten	one	H853	another	H6258	to the spoil
H5221	H376		H7453		H7998
מוֹאָב:					
now therefore Moab					
H4124					