



Conform or Transform

THE POWER OF PRAISE IN A DRY VALLEY

INSIGHTS FROM 2 KINGS 3



THE CRISIS IN THE DESERT

- **THE ALLIANCE:** Three kings—Israel (Jehoram), Judah (Jehoshaphat), and Edom—join forces against the rebellion of Moab.
- **THE FAILURE:** A seven-day detour leads to a logistical collapse. “The GPS failed.” No water for the armies or animals.
- **THE REALITY:** A depleted, thirsty alliance facing a fortified enemy.

THE CONFORMITY TRAP

To conform is to yield to the environment that dictates your life. It is accepting defeat before the battle begins.

The Kings' Reaction: They conformed to the desert. They conformed to their thirst. They assumed God had brought them there to destroy them.

*“You either conform to the environment...
or you transform it.”*



The Prophetic Pivot

Why the Prophet Intervened

- 💧 **The Rejection:** Elisha confronts the King of Israel for his idolatry. “If it weren’t for the respect I have for Jehoshaphat, I wouldn’t even look at you.”
- 💧 **The Insight:** Jehoshaphat is the key. In Hebrew, **Judah** means **Praise**.
- 💧 **The Takeaway:** The Prophet only engaged the crisis because “**Praise was in the room.**”

Shifting the Atmosphere

“But now bring me a musician.” — 2 Kings 3:15

Elisha didn't ask for a butler or a soldier.
He asked for a musician.

The Theological Mechanism:
Praise is not entertainment. It is an
instrument that changes the atmosphere
to prepare for God's intervention.



GOD DOES NOT RESPOND TO:

- 💧 Panic
- 💧 Politics
- 💧 The committee in your head
- 💧 Complaining

GOD RESPONDS TO:

PRAISE

God requires “**King Praise**”—a high level of praise not dependent on circumstances. The atmosphere must be set for Him to speak.

The Prophecy of the Ditches

“Thus says the Lord: Make this valley full of **ditches**. You will not see wind, nor will you see rain; yet this valley shall be **filled with water**.”

The Paradox of Faith: The command was to dig before the water arrived. Real faith creates capacity for a blessing that cannot yet be seen.



“A Simple Thing”

Scripture

“This is a simple thing in the sight of the Lord.” (Verse 18)

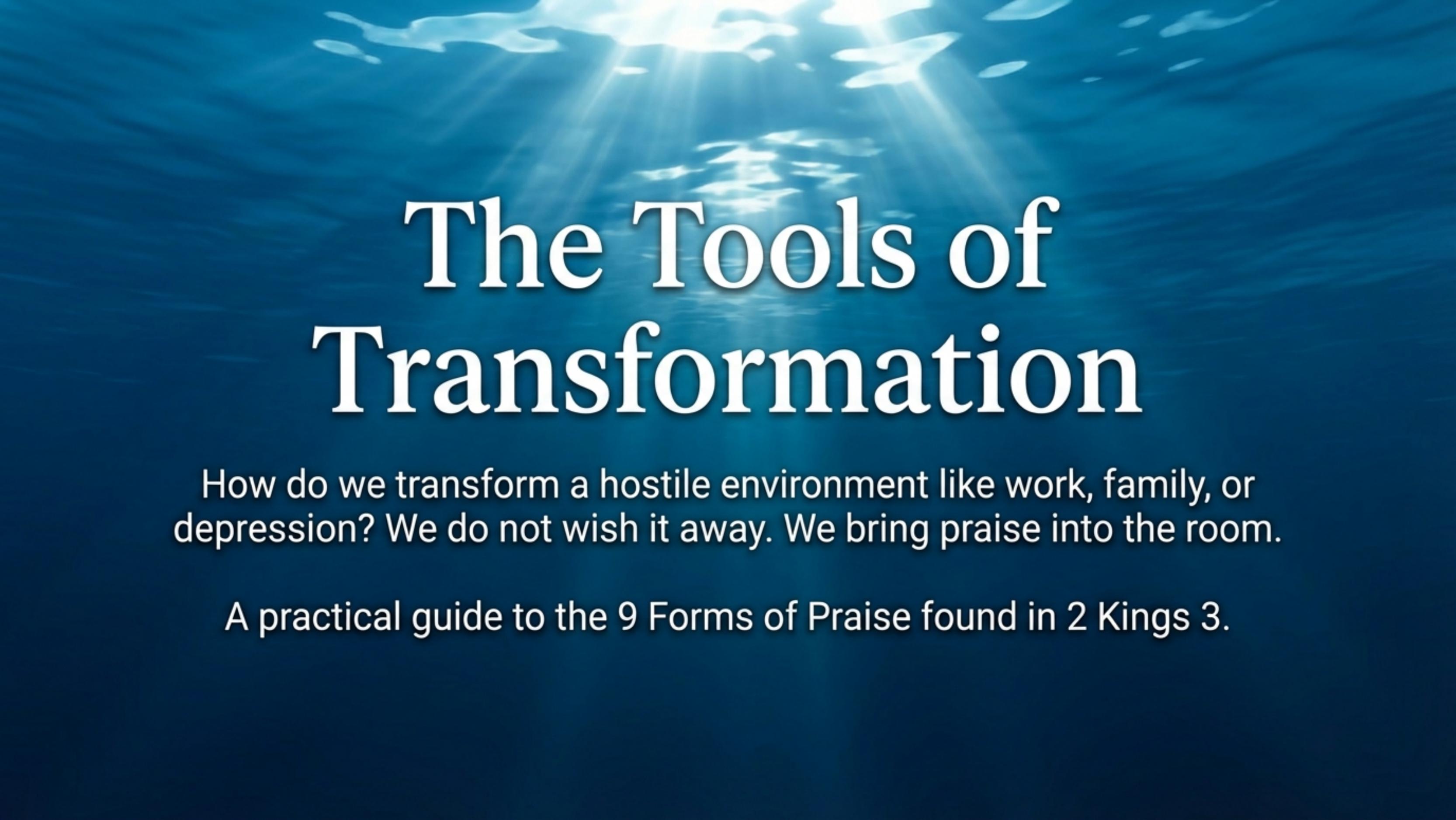
For God, defeating the enemy was easy. The challenge was getting the people to align their spirits.

Digging represents preparation. It acts out the belief that the rain is coming, even when the sky is clear.

The Optical Victory

1. **The Outcome:** In the morning, water flowed from Edom, filling the valley.
2. **The Deception:** The sun shone on the water. To the Moabites, it **looked red like blood**. They assumed the alliance had collapsed.
3. **The Defeat:** Moab attacked recklessly and was destroyed.

Takeaway: God used the transformed environment to confuse and defeat the enemy.

The background of the slide is an underwater scene. Sunlight filters down from the surface, creating bright rays and shimmering patterns on the water. The water is a deep blue color. The title 'The Tools of Transformation' is centered in a large, white, serif font with a slight drop shadow.

The Tools of Transformation

How do we transform a hostile environment like work, family, or depression? We do not wish it away. We bring praise into the room.

A practical guide to the 9 Forms of Praise found in 2 Kings 3.

Forms of Praise (1-5)



SPEAK

The narrative of your actions dissolves with your word. If your lips move to give God glory, the environment functions differently.



SHOUT

Whispers are not enough for some mountains. Shout to break the conformity of reality.



CLAP HANDS

A biblical symbol to "smite the enemy" that is robbing your life.



PLAY INSTRUMENTS

Do it skillfully. Excellence is required when entering the house of God.



DANCE

Undignified praise. God cares about the sacrifice, not the style.

Forms of Praise (6-9)



BREATHE

You are a living sacrifice. Every intake of oxygen is an opportunity to praise God for another day.



STAND

When you have done all else, stand. Standing after trauma is an act of defiance against the enemy.



LIFT HANDS

A sign of surrender to God, acknowledging He is the source.



RECEIVE

The ultimate form of praise is receiving Salvation—allowing the King to enter your life.

The Warning: Do Not Retreat

The Context:

At the battle's end, the King of Moab sacrificed his son on the city wall. Horrified, the Israelites retreated.

The Error:

The Kings acted on their own accord ("stopped every spring, felled every tree") going beyond God's command.

The Lesson:

Do not allow your praise to go before the blessings of God. Stay within the constraints of His guidance. Do not praise your way into thinking you are God.

From Womb to Tomb

The Israelites retreated when they saw the enemy's sacrifice. But we never have to retreat.

God gave His Son, Jesus, so that no child ever needs to be sacrificed again.

The Promise: He honors us from the womb to the tomb. We are 'more than conquerors.' We do not retreat; we stand.

Transform Your Valley

You have the ability to be conformed to the situations of your life, or you can transform them.

When praise is in the room, you have the ability to transform it.