

A KING, A PROPHET, & HEAVENLY FIRE. 2 KN. 1. #03.

Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab. ²Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria, and was injured; so he sent messengers and said to them, "Go, inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this injury." ³But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?' ⁴Now therefore, thus says the LORD: 'You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" ⁵So Elijah departed. ⁶And when the messengers returned to him, he said to them, "Why have you come back?" ⁷So they said to him, "A man came up to meet us, and said to us, 'Go, return to the king who sent you, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.''" ⁸Then he said to them, "What kind of man was it who came up to meet you and told you these words?" ⁹So they answered him, "A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite." ¹⁰Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: "Man of God, the king has said, 'Come down!'" ¹¹So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. ¹²Then he sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men. And he answered and said to him: "Man of God, thus has the king said, 'Come down quickly!'" ¹³So Elijah answered and said to them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. ¹⁴Again, he sent a third captain of fifty with his fifty men. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and pleaded with him, and said to him: "Man of God, please let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight. ¹⁵Look, fire has come down from heaven and burned up the first two captains of fifties with their fifties. But let my life now be precious in your sight." ¹⁶And the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, "Go down with him; do not be afraid of him." So he arose and went down with him to the king. ¹⁷Then he said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of His word? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" ¹⁸So Ahaziah died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. Because he had no son, Jehoram became king in his place, in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. ¹⁹Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

1. Pride of destruction

- a. Ahaziah, son of Ahab, fell through a lattice & confined to his bed
 - a1. He sends messengers to a prophet of Baal-Zebub to inquire as to his recovery
 - a2. The men are intercepted outside the city
- b. God tells Elijah to inform the men that Ah. will die
 - a1. El. asks if they were going to the prophet of Ekron (in Philistia) because there is no prophet of God in Israel
 - a2. Due to seeking an idol's word & not God, Ahaziah would die
- c. Ah. asks why the men returned so soon
 - a1. The men informed him of Elijah's message
 - a2. Ah. realizes that it was Elijah the Tishbite
- d. Instead of repenting, Ah. sends 51 men to arrest Elijah, showing the king's arrogance
 - a1. Elijah proves that he is a man of God by calling on fire from heaven to consume 51

- a2. A second company of 51 commands Elijah to come with them, but are also consumed
- e. Ah. keeps sending soldiers to arrest Elijah
 - a1. Despite fire killing 102 men, the king is not humbled, & he shows no regard for their lives
 - a2. As with Lazarus being raised from the dead, God's enemies ignore the miracles
- f. Finally, the 3rd captain pleads for the life of his men
 - a1. The Angel of the Lord (Christ) tells Elijah not to fear them, but go with them
 - a2. Was the captain a believer or just fearful?

2. Elijah's message to the king

- a. Elijah tells Ahaziah that he will die because he sent to inquire of Baal, rather than God
 - a1. Indication is that if Ah. had consulted God, he would have lived
 - a2. Even when facing death, the wicked reject coming to the Lord
- b. All Ah. had to do was repent
 - a1. Same trait seen in Saul, Solomon, Absalom
 - a2. Ahab got a reprieve briefly when he humbled himself before the Lord
- c. Not repenting while facing overwhelming evidence demonstrates rebellion & not disbelief (Judas)
- d. Ahaziah's brother reigned in his stead (a king Jehoram both in Israel & in Judah)

3. Lack of submission, not evidence

- a. There is plenty of evidence to come to faith, but men love darkness rather than light (Jn. 3:19)
- b. If men did not believe God existed at all, they would not be so angry against God & His saints
- c. Upon death, Ahaziah relinquished all the power he had & ended up in eternal torment
 - a1. An attempt to be independent from God is a fool's errand
 - a2. Php. 2:8-11 everyone will acknowledge that Jesus is Lord of all in the end
- d. Jehoram did not learn from his brother's folly
- e. 9 yr. time discrepancy between 1:17 & 3:1 (2 Ch.20)