

2 Kings 1:1-18 **God Judges Ahaziah for inquiring of Baal-Zebub god of Ekron**

Ahaziah was injured and sent to enquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron

1 Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab.

2 Now 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."

Yahweh sent word through Elijah – Ahaziah will die

3 But 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?'" 4 Now therefore, thus says the Lord: 'You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" So Elijah departed.

Messengers report back to Ahaziah

5 And when the messengers returned to him, he said to them, "Why have you come back?"

6 So 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.'"""

Elijah identified -

7 Then he said to them, "What kind of man was it who came up to meet you and told you these words?"

8 So they answered him, "A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

Ahaziah sent three captains and their fifty to Elijah – Fire from Heaven

9 Then 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!'"

10 So 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.

11 Then 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!'"

12 So 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.

13 Again, 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. 14 Look, 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."

15 And 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.

Message to Ahaziah

16 Then 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.'"

Prophecy fulfilled

17 So 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.

18 Now 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?

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Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab. [2 Kings 1:1]
- ✧ Simple statement, matter of fact.

Ahaziah was injured and sent to enquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron [2 Kings 1:2]

- ✧ Baal-Zebub (lord of flies) was the god of the Philistine royal city of Ekron.
- ✧ Ahaziah was the son of Ahab and Jezebel who worshipped the Baals.
- ✧ Elijah had confronted the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel and proven Baal to be totally impotent. [1 Kings 18:20-40]
- ✧ Knowing all this, after sustaining injuries in his fall through the lattice, Ahaziah sent messengers to Ekron of the Philistines to inquire of Baal-Zebub if he would recover.

Yahweh sent word through Elijah – Ahaziah will die

- ✧ 3 But 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?'" 4 Now therefore, thus says the Lord: 'You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" So Elijah departed. [2 Kings 1:3-4]
- ✧ Yahweh took a dim view of a leader in Israel who knew the history of his people and all that Yahweh had done for Israel from the time He brought the Children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt and gave them the Promised Land, defending them through the 451 years of the Judges and keeping them through the 164 years of the kings from Saul, David, Solomon, and to the time Ahaziah became king of Israel, and then for him to turn to an idol whom God had proven unable to do anything at Mount Carmel.
- ✧ There is no justification for such action so Yahweh called for Ahaziah's death.
- ✧ Elijah delivered the message to Ahaziah's messengers and departed.

Messengers report back to Ahaziah [2 Kings 1:5-6]

- ✧ The messengers returned to Ahaziah who was surprised at their quick return.
- ✧ The message of Yahweh received from Elijah was delivered to Ahaziah.
- ✧ There is a God in Israel and you shall surely die, Baal-Zebub can not help you.

Elijah identified -

- ✧ 7 Then he said to them, "What kind of man was it who came up to meet you and told you these words?" [2 Kings 1:7]

✧ 8 So they answered him, "A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite." [2 Kings 1:8]

✧ Elijah was recognized by his appearance and known by Ahaziah.

Ahaziah sent three captains and their fifty to Elijah – Fire from Heaven [2 Kings 1:9-15]

✧ 9 Then 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!'"

✧ 10 So 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.

✧ Ahaziah was arrogant and belligerent, so he sent a captain and his fifty men to get Elijah who was sitting on the top of the hill in his sight.

✧ At the word of Elijah, fire came down from Heaven and consumed the captain and his 50.

✧ This procedure was repeated a second time with the same results. [2 Kings 1:11-12]

✧ 13 Again, 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.

14 Look, 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." [2 Kings 1:13-14]

✧ 15 And 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. [2 Kings 1:15]

✧ After seeing the consequence of the efforts of the first two who commanded Elijah to come down in the name of the king, the third captain chose another tactic and pleaded on bent knees for his life and the lives of his men before Elijah the man of Elohiym.

✧ Yahweh saw the danger was over and allowed Elijah to go down with this captain and his men.

Message to Ahaziah

✧ 16 Then 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.'" [2 Kings 1:16]

Prophecy fulfilled

✧ 17 So 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. [2 Kings 1:17]

✧ Ahaziah the king of Israel could not change the word of God by force of arms, so he lost 102 men in his attempt.

✧ Our lives are in the hands of God whether we are great or small in the eyes of men.

✧ God's Word prevails over all.

✧ Ahaziah had no son so his brother Jehoram son of Ahab succeeded him on the throne of Israel.

✧ This was in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah.

✧ 18 Now 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? [2 Kings 1:18]