

2 Kings 1

Who to Trust in a Crisis

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Review Last Week's Introduction to Kings:

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1. Click on the lesson title: "Introduction to 2 Kings"
2. Click "Handout" to view slides
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ISRAEL (NORTH)			
Years (BC)	King	Good/ Evil	Prophet
931-910	Jeroboam I	Evil	Ahijah
910-909	Nadab	Evil	
909-886	Baasha	Evil	Jehu
886-885	Elah	Evil	
885	Zimri	Evil	Micaiah
885-874	Omri	Evil	Elijah
874-853	Ahab	Evil	
853-852	Ahaziah	Evil	Elijah
852-841	Joram	Evil	Elisha
841-814	Jehu	Good/ Evil	
814-798	Jehohaz	Evil	
798-782	Jehoash	Evil	
782-753	Jeroboam II	Evil	
753-752	Zechariah	Evil	
752	Shallum	Evil	
752-742	Menahem	Evil	
742-740	Pekahiah	Evil	
733-722	Pekah	Evil	
732-722	Hoshea	Evil	
Israel into Assyrian Captivity in 722			

Ahaziah Reigns in Israel – 1 Kings 22

⁵¹ Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and he reigned two years over Israel. ⁵² He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. ⁵³ He served Baal and worshiped him and provoked the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger in every way that his father had done.

"Second Kings begins on a positive note: Ahab is dead. You may think that is a nasty sentiment, but you must remember that Ahab was a conduit that allowed pagan sewage to engulf Israel (1 Kings 16:29-34), one who tolerated injustice (1 Kings 21), and who hated God's word (e.g., 1 Kings 22). But the Ahabs always die—that is good news. The bad news is that Ahab, Jr., follows him. Ahaziah is a chip off the old, dead block. Welcome to Israel, 852 BC."

Dale Ralph Davis
The Power and the Fury

Elijah Denounces Ahaziah

1 After the death of Ahab, Moab rebelled against Israel.

² Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria, and lay sick; so he sent messengers, telling them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness." **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 went.

⁵ The messengers returned to the king, and he said to them, "Why have you returned?"

⁶ And they said to him, "There came a man to meet us, and said to us, 'Go back 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.'" **⁷ He said to them, "What kind of man was he who came to meet you and told you these things?"**

⁸ They answered him, "He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

Ahaziah's accident of falling through the lattice	→	God's mercy
God calling-in Elijah the prophet	→	God's mercy
Ahaziah watched, first-hand: • Father (Ahab) chasing after Baals. Result? ✓ Drought; famine ✓ Crises stopped by Elijah ✓ Fire from heaven & priests slaughtered	→	God's mercy, power & judgment

⁹ Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty men with his fifty. He went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, "O man of God, the king says, 'Come down.'" ¹⁰ But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

¹¹ Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty men with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, "O man of God, this is the king's order, 'Come down quickly!'" ¹² But Elijah answered them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

¹³ Again the king sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up and came and fell on his knees before Elijah and entreated him, "O man of God, please let my life, and the life of these fifty servants of yours, be precious in your sight. ¹⁴ Behold, fire came down from heaven and consumed the two former captains of fifty men with their fifties, but now let my life be precious in your sight." ¹⁵ Then 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 ¹⁶ and 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.'"

What was King's Ahaziah's intent for Elijah?

Why the fire?

1 Kings 18

³⁶ And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. ³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God." ⁴⁰ And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape." And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.

A Samaritan Village Rejects Jesus – Luke 9

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³ But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”

⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ And they went on to another village.

Finish 2 Kings 1:

¹⁷ So he died according to the word of the LORD that Elijah had spoken. Jehoram became king in his place in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, because Ahaziah had no son. ¹⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

What do we notice about God in this chapter?

- Merciful – even to those at the end of their lives
- Intervenes when He doesn’t have to
- Sees and intervenes – even in our secret sins
- Hates idols and acts against them
- Judges the sins of the King
 - sometimes quickly with a shortened reign
 - sometimes by purposely extending their reign
- A consuming fire:
 - Judges sin
 - Purifies & heals
 - Protects
- Honors Humility

