

2 Kings 1

War

Introduction:

Heroes/Villains...Good/Evil kings...True/False-Prophets
Story of God working in/through imperfect Kings...to usher in the Messiah

- As I and II Samuel originally **one volume...**
- So I and II Kings originally **one volume**
 1. **150 BC:** All of Samuel and Kings compiled into one volume
 2. **Later split into 4 Books:** I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings and II Kings
- **Author of II Kings:** Unknown. Jeremiah?
- **Date** of 1st and 2nd Kings
 1. Completed last days Judah [Southern]
 2. **586 B.C.** Time of Deportation

1st and 2nd Kings covers over **400 yrs.** of God dealing w/His people through Prophets / Priests / Kings

- **Context**
 1. **Israel divided:** Northern Kingdom called Israel/Southern Kingdom called Judah
 2. **Judah:** Few good kings. **Israel...**No good Kings

Ahab King of Israel dies at hands of Syrians. His son Ahaziah now reigns in Northern Kingdom

1 Kings 22:51 [Read] **Ahaziah the son of Ahab** became king over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel. **52 He did 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 had made Israel sin; **53 for he served Baal and worshiped him, and provoked the Lord God of Israel to anger, according to all that his father had done.**

- **Ahaziah did evil:** Idolatry/Witchcraft/Satan Worship/Disobedience to the Lord

I. Ahaziah Disobedience Leading to Judgment

1 Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab.

- **Moab rebels against Israel**
 1. Been under Israel's control since King David. Israel now in decline
 2. Moab began through incest between Lot and his daughters...

Genesis 19:36 Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. **37** The firstborn bore a son and called his name **Moab**; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. **38** And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of **Ammon** to this day.

3. Solomon took pagan wife from Moab

1 Kings 11:1 [Read] But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites—7...Then Solomon built a high place for **Chemosh** the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon.

- **Chemosh:**

1. Destroyer/Subduer?
2. Fish god of Moabites and Ammonites
3. Demanded human sacrifice [2 Kings 3]
4. God calls this demon an abomination

- **Solomon's disobedience led to his/Israel's judgment:**

1. Turned his heart away after God appeared to him 2x
2. Married Pagan wives
3. Served Pagan gods

1 Kings 11:11 "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely **tear the kingdom** away from you..."

- **Judgment:** Split Kingdom/War. *But it was just a small compromise. Political reasons*

Judgment for compromise /disobeying God: Separation from God/Victory for our enemies

Moab now rebelling against Israel

2 Now [King] 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."

- **Ahaziah:** Klutz?

1. Falls through the lattice on 2nd floor of Palace lands on ground
2. **Hurt bad:** "Go ask *Baal-Zebub* if going to die"

Jews claimed Jesus casted out demons by Beelzebub

Matthew 12:24 ... "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

- **Beelzebub: False deity of Philistines**

1. Ruler of demons; i.e. Satan
2. Devil lord of the demons
3. Lord of the Flies

Men love the gods that are most like unto themselves, so it is not surprising to see Ahaziah [bowing] to this miserable Philistine god." [Knapp]

King of Israel: Ask the devil about my future?

3 But **the angel of the Lord** said to [Prophet] 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?'

- **The Angel of the Lord:** Jesus sends Elijah on last mission
- Go meet the messengers and say...

**Why aren't you seeking God?
Why do people look for hope apart from God?**

- **What are you betting your life on?**
 1. Fortune Cookie
 2. Horoscope
 3. Psychics
 4. Spiritualists
 5. Astrology
 6. Chrystals or...
 7. **Or the Living God?**
- Are you looking for a god to tell you what want hear or one who tells the truth?

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.**

- **Elijah does as God asked:** Meets them and gives message

5 And when the messengers returned to him, [the King] 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.'" " 7 Then he said to them, "What kind of man was it who came up to meet you and told you these words?"

- What kind of a man was he; i.e. **it wasn't Elijah was it?**

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

King Ahaziah knew Prophet Elijah but willingly chose false-prophets

- **Mormons:**
 1. Do you know your founder/creator of LDS Joseph Smith was a Freemason?
 2. Do you know that he brought the Masonic rituals into Mormonism?
 3. Do you know that the Book of Mormon was changed over 3900 x?

4. Do you know that recent DNA Evidence proves Native Americans not Jews?

**Come out from among her!
We know but...we are not going to leave**

Ahaziah had a clear choice. Ahaziah knew the choice. Ahaziah *willingly* made wrong choice

- **Instead of humbling himself before Living God:** Acted as a practical atheist
 1. Holds on to a form of religion
 2. Holds on to self-righteousness
 3. Holds on to pride

Digs in and now tries to come to Living God on his own terms...

9 Then [King Ahaziah] sent to [Elijah] 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.**

- Captain and 50 Soldiers go to Elijah sitting on hill to intimidate/arrest

Man of God...the king says "Come down!"

Trying to intimidate a prophet of God is equivalent to trying to intimidate God

- **Nations gathered to Armageddon:**
 1. Jesus is back to set up His Kingdom on earth
 2. Kings of the world gather armies together to willingly fight the Living God

Psalm 2:1 [Read] Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." 4 **He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;** The Lord shall hold them in derision...**12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,** And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

- God is not taken by surprise by anything
- God is not intimidated by anyone

God is at perfect peace even while judging a sinful world

Psalm 29:10 The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood, And the Lord sits as King forever.

- Elijah is at perfect peace as his enemies approach. No fear. God is in control.
- **There he was sitting on top of the hill...**

9b...And [the king's Captain] spoke to [Elijah]: **"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."**

- **You are right...**I am a man of God/representative of Living God and thus...
- Coming against me in arrogance is coming against God in arrogance

...and that is unacceptable

10b...And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

Dangerous to touch those God has anointed; those chosen for a specific purpose.

1 Chronicles 16:22 "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."

- Abraham told his wife Sarah to lie and say she was his sister
- Pagan King Abimelech took Sarah into his palace and about to take her as wife

Genesis 20:3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed **you are a dead man because of the woman** whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife." [Abraham My anointed]...**5** [Abimelech said to God...]In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this." **6** And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For **I also withheld you from sinning** against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her."

- God protected Sarah because Abraham [imperfect as he was] was God's anointed
 1. People believe they can mess with God's people and God will not act
 2. Worse, we sometimes believe the same thing.
 3. **But God will deal with those who seek to harm His own...**

Psalms 18:6 [David cries to God regarding Saul] In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears. **7** Then the **earth shook and trembled**; The foundations of the hills also quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry. **8** **Smoke went up from His nostrils**, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it. **9** He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet.

- **Jesus will avenge those who come against His bride**

Romans 12:19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather **give place to wrath**; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

- **Give place:** Leave room for God to work. Our part? Shut mouths/forgive/move on

Psalms 37:34 Wait on the Lord, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; **When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.**

- **God is a righteous judge**
 1. Reward for walking in Righteousness
 2. Consequences for continuing in wickedness...better than we could dish out

Psalms 58:10 The righteous **shall rejoice when he sees the vengeance**; He shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked, **11** So that men will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; Surely He is God who judges in the earth."

Coming against Elijah God's Prophet was like coming against the Lord
Captain's last words...come down! And it came down...

- Fire came down and 51 licked up by flames. Captain and 50 others

11 Then [King Ahaziah] 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.

- **2nd Captain even more arrogant: Come down "quickly"!**
- **Shouldn't he have wondered?**
 1. Why didn't the first group come back?
 2. Why are there 51 scorch marks?
- We should wonder when we see scorch marks left by those who come against God
- We should learn from observing the end of the wicked.

Psalm 91:8 ...with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked.

Humble yourself before Living God and others. Be thankful. Be gracious and merciful.

You must be Born-Again.

13 Again, [King Ahaziah] 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:

- The third Captain is more observant, more *scorch savvy*
 1. **Fell on knees:** Humility
 2. **Pleaded with Elijah;** i.e. mercy from God; i.e. not getting what we deserve

13b..."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."

- Have mercy on the lives of "**these 50 servants of yours?**"

102 scorch marks leads him to change his tune

**Shouldn't the residual scorch marks left by other people's choices...
Lead us to do something different that they did?**

- **NOTE:** Jesus sitting with Elijah the entire time...

15 And **the angel of the Lord** said to Elijah, "**Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.**"

- **Jesus:** Do not be afraid; 365 times?

15b...So [Elijah] arose and went down with [the Captain] to the king.

- Elijah goes down with the Captain and his 50
- **NOTE:** 50 are saved because of Captains humility
 1. Arrogance led to death
 2. Humility led to life
- Elijah goes to the King to answer question... **"Will I live"**

16 Then [Elijah] said to [The king], "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,

Same message God gave to Elijah to give to the messengers to give to King
He has heard this before

The message from God did not change just because Ahaziah didn't want to hear it the first time. [Guzik]

- **FACT:** Evil King Ahaziah had the opportunity to inquire of the True God

He knew there was a true prophet of God but chose to call the Devil first
 He called on God with selfish motives, not in humility, God's only acceptable method
- **One day the opportunity was gone**
 1. Pride was too strong
 2. Humility could not be found
 3. Hardened his heart
 4. God gave him over to his own desire...to be his own god, do it his own way

You will never get up again...but you shall surely die

- **Now is the time.** Tomorrow may be too late

2 Corinthians 6:1 We then, as workers together with [God] also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 **...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**

- **Serious**

Hebrews 2:1 ...we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, **lest we drift away.** 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation

- Tasted the Lord is good
- Heard the Word of God
- Letting God's call disperse into the wind...drifting away

The King knew of the Living God but chose to disregard Him and His Word
 How will you escape God's wrath when you are so accountable to what you have heard?

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?

- **Ahaziah:** Life a dash between dates. Eternally separated from God w/ Eternal regret
- **Kings of the two Kingdoms:**
 1. Jehoram King of Israel in North
 2. Jehoram King of Judah in the South