

Faith, Fire, and Favor

2 Kings 1

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.” 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.

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.’”’”

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.”

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. 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.’”

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?

—2 Kings 1

Read 2 Kings 1

At one time, the prophet Elijah had fled in fear because of a threatening letter from Jezebel. God had met the intimidated prophet, cared for his needs, and revealed His power and ways to him. It was while Elijah was hiding in a cave that God assured him of His present and ongoing work and His future plans. After that interaction, Elijah was emboldened to return to Israel, confront Ahab directly about his wickedness, as well as manifest God’s Word and power.

All of us, at one time or another, can experience the panic of fear when evil is on the rise and gaining momentum. Yet even in our fearful state, God is willing to meet us where we are hiding and gently renew our faith in His ways, His sovereignty, and

His plans. These personal encounters alone with God are crucial to the emboldening of our faith and spiritual empowerment to minister in an ungodly culture.

When the disciples of Jesus were arrested, tried, and threatened for proclaiming the gospel, their accusers wondered at their boldness. *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus* (Acts 4:13). Time with Jesus will change our outlook on life and recharge us with God's power to proclaim and trust in His Word.

As you study 2 Kings 1, take special note of the boldness and power of the prophet as he confronted the idolatry of the son of Ahab, the messengers of Ahaziah, and the armies of Israel.

1. Ahaziah was the son of Ahab and the new king of Israel. From 2 Kings 1:1–2, sum up the situation with:
 - a. Moab
 - b. Ahaziah
 - c. The mission of Ahaziah's messengers
2. Briefly record the events chronicled in 2 Kings 1:3–7.
 - a. Verse 3
 - b. Verse 4

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In Elijah's days, gods were associated with the land. Therefore, when Ahaziah was seeking Baal-Zebub (the Lord of the Flies of Ekron), he was ascribing the land of Israel to Baal.

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

Many see Elijah as one of the two witnesses mentioned in Revelation 11:3–6.

**FOOD
FOR THOUGHT**

Not only did John the Baptist wear a similar garment as Elijah (Matthew 3:4), but the New Testament declares that he came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Luke 1:17).

c. Verse 5

d. Verse 6

e. Verse 7

3. Note and comment on the messenger's description of Elijah. 2 Kings 1:8

4. Remark on the confrontation between the prophet and the king's soldiers:

a. Verses 9–10

b. Verses 11–12

c. Verses 13–15

1) What did you see?

5. According to 2 Kings 1:16, what was the reason for which Ahaziah would die?

a. Share your thoughts.

6. From 2 Kings 1:17, note and comment on the fulfillment of Elijah's word.

7. What is your greatest takeaway from 2 Kings 1?