

Wednesday, August 31, 2022 • Read 2Kings 1

Questions from the Scripture text: Who rebelled against whom in v1? After what? Now what happens to Ahab's son in v2? Whom does he send to whom to ask what in v2? But Who speaks to whom in v3? Whom is Elijah to go meet? What is he to ask them? What answer does Who give to Ahaziah's question? Who asks what, when the messengers are back too soon to have been to Ekron (v5)? What do the messengers report (v6)? What does Ahaziah ask in v7? How do they answer (v8)? What does the king conclude? What sort of group does the king then send in v9? What does the captain call Elijah? What does he command Elijah to do? How does Elijah answer (v10)? What happens to the captain and his fifty men? How does the king respond to this (v11)? What does the second captain call Elijah? What does he command Elijah? How does Elijah answer (v12)? What happens to the captain and his fifty? How does the king now respond (v13)? What does this captain call Elijah? What doesn't he do that the other captains did? What request does he make instead? How does he explain this request in v14? Who speaks to whom in v15? What does He tell Elijah to do? What does He tell Elijah not to do? With whom does Elijah go where? In Whose behalf does Elijah speak in v15? For what offense is Ahaziah being punished? What is the punishment? What happens in v17? Who becomes king (cf. 3:1) and why? What was recorded elsewhere instead of in holy Scripture (v18)?

Who is God's man with God's power, the king or the prophet? 2Kings 1 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these eighteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **in the battle between Israel's traitorous throne and God's faithful Word, the prophet was the man of God in whom was invested the power of God.**

v1 seems like a toss-away, an historical anecdote to let us know perhaps where we are in the chronology. But it is more than that. The chapter begins with the death of Ahab, as prophesied by Elijah (and two others), and it ends (v17–18) with the death of Ahaziah, as prophesied by Elijah. Good riddance to bad rubbish; and, bless the Name of God Who would eventually come as the Word made flesh in order to be King for Himself for His people!

The repetition helps us see the main teaching of the chapter: "If I am a man of God, then let fire come down..." and it did (v10, 12)! Elijah is the man of God. And Yahweh is the one true God. His Word is faithful and always true.

But Ahaziah is treacherous and traitorous, not true. He sends to Baal-Zebub to know if he will survive falling out of his window (v2). A Baal-god from one of the cities of the now almost-defunct Philistines? What does he know, or what can he do? Any God but Yahweh is a figment of the imagination. If an Ekronite had a problem, it should be he who realizes that Baal-Zebub is a farce, and sends to inquire of Yahweh instead. But here it has been the other way around. So Yahweh asks, "is it because there is no God in Israel...?" (v3, 6, 16). Let us consider well how the Lord considers it treachery to look for hope apart from Him!

Of course, Ahaziah knew the answer. He could tell from the outfit (v8) that the answer that he would die (v6) had come from the prophet of Yahweh. Like father (cf. 1Ki 22:8, 16, 18), like son, he just doesn't like the prophet or his God.

So, Ahaziah sends not a messenger but a military force to summon Elijah. But God's Word in the mouth of God's prophet is its own military force (cf. 2Ki 2:12). Elijah declares that Word as his own defense, and God answers with fire from heaven (v10, 12). When our authority commands us to oppose the Lord, our responsibility is to refuse the command. Ahaziah commanded those captains to their death, and they should have disobeyed. Those captains commanded those fifty to their death, and they should have disobeyed.

But Yahweh is the sort of commander Who defends and avenges the lives of His people. He defends Elijah throughout the chapter, and we see a small picture of this in the third captain. He both disobeys Ahaziah's orders and intervenes in behalf of his own men, asking that their lives be precious (v13). Let all lesser magistrates/authorities conduct themselves like this.

Eventually, the Word Himself would become a Man in order to be the forever-King. He is His own defense and His people's defense. Their lives are precious in His sight, and He defends and avenges them. How blessed to be the servants of King Jesus!

In what situation do you need knowledge/hope? From where alone can it ultimately come? What means does He use to give it, and how are you tempted to look for it apart from Him? Where has He given you His words? Who is your King? What has He done for you? What can you be sure He will do for you?

Sample prayer: Lord, You alone are God. Don't let us be like Ahaziah and look for answers apart from You. Make us to be confident in the power of Your word and to hate and fear ever to oppose You. Forgive us for how easily our hearts do the very things for which You executed Ahaziah. Thank You for giving us Christ to be both our Prophet and King, as well as our Sacrifice who has borne the fire of wrath that we deserve. In His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP72A "God, Give Your Judgments to the King" or TPH72B "O God, Your Judgments Give the King"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Second Kings, chapter 1. These are the words of God, Moab rebelled against Israel, after the death of Ahab, now his IFL through the lattice. It was up a room in Samaria and it was injured. So he sent Messengers and sent to them said to them, go inquire a bails above the God of Akron.

Whether I shall recover from this injury, the angel of Yahweh said to Elijah the tissue fight arise. Go up to meet the messengers of the King of Samaria and say to them, Is it? Because there's no God in Israel that you are going to inquire a bales above the god of Ekran.

Now, therefore, thus as Yahweh and you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up but you shall surely die. So Elijah departed, and when the messengers returned to him, he said to them. Why have you come back? 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, Yahweh is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire bills above the go to Vectren? Therefore, you shall not come down from the bed to what you have going up. But you shall surely die and he said to them. What kind of man was it?

Who came up to meet you and told you these words. So they answered in my hairy man, wearing a leather belt around his waist and he said It has Elijah that Tishbite, Then the king sent to him a captain of 50 with his 50 men. So he went up to him and there he was sitting on the top of the hill and he spoke to him, man of God.

The king has said come down so Elijah insert and said to the captain of the 50. If I am a man of God Then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50 men and fire came down from heaven and consumed. Him and his Then he sent to him another captain of 50 with his 50 men and he answered and said to him man of God thus has the king said come down quickly.

So a larger answered and said to him, if I am a man of God let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50 men and the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him. And there's 50 getting sent to third captain of 50 with his 50 men.

The third captain of 51, top 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 50 servants of yours, be precious in your sight. Look, fire has come down from heaven and burned up the first two captains of 50s with their 50s, but let my life now, be precious in your sight.

And the angel of Yahweh said to Elijah go down with him, do not be afraid of him. So heroes and went down with him to the king and he said to him, Thus says, Yahweh because you have sent messengers to inquirer avails above the god of Akron, 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. So as I died reporting to the Word of Yahweh, which allowed token because he had no son to horn became king in his place.

And the second year of the Horum, son of Jehoshaphat can give Judah.

So far the reading of Gods inspired and in there. Twerked. Oh sorry there's one verse at the top of the next page. Now, the rest of the acts of ahem's IOT did, Are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the king of Israel? Now, and it's the reading of the gods inspired and generator.

So I have been told three times by three different profits for three different offenses, different things about his death that he would die. That Israel would be defeated in his death and that his death would be ignominious like that of gerbellum, son of knee bat and Basha. And finally, we have in verse 1, the death of Ahab and it comes with not only the previous defeat of Israel to the aromins.

But now Israel has been so we can that even the Moabites are able to revel. And so, there's all sorts of fulfillment of the Word of God Against Ahab. The Word of God condemic and fulfilling that condemnation of Ahab, right? In verse 1. And it's important that we see that.

The death of Ahab is in every respect a condemnation for his sin, and a fulfillment of the prophetic Word of God that has been sent to him because they has Aya, should know better. He saw what his daddy did he saw what the Lord thought of what his daddy did?

He knew what was pronounced against his daddy? And the way he had come in to his kingship was by the fulfillment of God's Word should have known better. But as we often see in the Bible, as it proves to us how enslaved men are to their sin of art from the grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ should have known better and acted.

According to that knowledge are two very different things, unless the Lord gives us life in our hearts instead of death. So that rather than living as, by nature children of wrath walking in trespasses and sins, in which we all once walked. Unless we come by the work of the Holy Spirit in us from being by nature children of wrath to being children of the Living.

God then all of the knowledge. We have will not free us from our bondage to send. So as I have falls through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria, he's injured and the injury is such that, he doesn't know if he's gonna live. Shouldn't that be the point when he is about to exit this world, or doesn't know if he's about to exit this world, but he thinks he might be about to leave this world and enter.

Eternity shouldn't be that? Be the point at which he finally comes to his senses and repents and looks to the Lord God, prevent any of you from wandering from the Lord. But if you do and he brings you to the doorstep of death, May that in such a case, be the point at which you decide that you're going to put away.

Everything that is false, May that be with the Holy Spirit uses to bring you to your census, like the prodigal son, who was, who was eating the, the pig's food and he comes to a senses and says I will return to my father. That's what should have happened with Ahaziah here.

But Ahaziah does not have life from the spirit. He is still dead in his sin and coming to the doorstep of death, rather than seeking Yahweh. He tries to hedge his bets and find out if he can wait a little bit longer. This is a horrible idea that you can wait before you get serious about the Lord that you can wait to come to the Lord.

No, If the Lord is giving you, The slide just inclination or even information that you should seek him and you don't have inclination, then you seek from him, ask him Lord. I know that I should turn to you but I don't even feel like it. Please help me. Lord make me want to because I do not know if you will ever give me this awareness again and you would be right to harden my heart like you did Ahaziah.

So it has I comes to the doorstep of death and does he see? Galway know, he seeks veils about and interestingly oddly, There are some that some texts that say bills above and some that say, veils a bowl and then there's scholars that argue over, which one they both have the first name to hell, We get the points, here's the God of Akron, which is one of the main cities of the Philistines who have been destroyed.

And so this is against all sense, against all reason, but that's how sin is. Whenever we are trying to rationalize our sin to ourselves, We realize we must realize that we are arguing against all reason. Just like, we heard in the Romans passage, and we'll hear wins the evening in the sermon.

From that passage We must never ever seek to rationalize our sin and especially, We must not use the word of God and the gospel of grace to rationalize sinning. So his, I sent these men to inquire a bells above the god of Ekran, they should have said, no, because they were taking their life in their hands.

This is going to get worse. It's gonna be a pattern in the chapter. The angel of you always says to Elijah the tissue bite rise. Go up and meet the messengers to marry and ask them. Is it because there is no God in Israel that you go to in Coral, Bells above the god of Akron.

Now, there's a God in Israel. In fact, there's a God in Israel has 400 prophets. All of them who lie or at least recently, a as of the death of his daddy, there were the 400 profits. All of him were lawyers his eye, however, knows that he can't trust them that he needs a trooper off of the true God, but like, Father, like Son.

He doesn't want to ask the two profit because he knows when Israel get from him and so he doesn't send them to my Kaya. Wherever my kaya is and he doesn't cry out to the God of Israel himself and he doesn't send looking for Elijah. He knows Elijah's there.

How do we know that? Because all he needs is a description of Elijah's facial hair and outfit. So oh, that's a larger. The tissue bite. So he knows that there is a God and he knows that there is a prophet of the true God. And yet he wants, he wants a second opinion and he is one of those fools that we heard about those wicked that we heard about in the evening.

Sermon on the Lord's day. Who thinks that maybe the God of Israel doesn't have all the power that there is, maybe there are other Gods among whom the power is distributed. And this bails above can give knowledge or can give power. So says it's Elijah. The tissue bite and then the king sent to him a captain of 50 with his 50 men, such as people's lack of a failure to sorry, such as people's failure to grasp, the greatness of God's holiness and righteousness that there are people who read the passage like this.

And I think that's horrible the profit denounced or prayed that a hundred men would be burnt up. That's actually 102 is a captain and his 50, a hundred men would be burnt up what a horrible thing. But the horrible thing is that these men are coming at the Hest of a wicked king to as it were capture summon.

Elijah the tissue fight. This wasn't a peace mission as a captain of 50 with 50 men from from the king. And so they call him man of God. Now they should be afraid of the man of God. This is the same man of God. Who stood on top of Mount Carmel with the sacrifice and he prayed.

And remember, the fire came down from heaven and consumed, the sacrifice saying this is what we all deserve. And yet, God is so merciful. He produces a not produces. He provides a sacrifice that will receive the fire of God's wrath God's, holy and righteous anger in our place. That's what a sacrifice is.

And so Elijah is sitting at the top of a mountain, he or top of a hill, you went up to him verse 9, there he was sitting on top of a hill and he says, man of God and there should be alarm bells going off and red flags going up.

The man of God is on top of a hill, the same, the same situation in which the sacrifice reminded us, what we all deserve from the wrath of God. And in that situation, he's going to attack the man of God. And on behalf of this earthly king who is so injured that he's about to die from his injury and even he suspects it this captain is going to summon him and of course logic says if I am a man of God let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50 men.

You see even if a king commands you to oppose God you must never oppose. The one true God. And even if your captain, If you are, one of the 50 and the king has commanded it and your captain has commended, You must never Oppose God. Each of us has a responsibility.

And so, the king and the captains are the first two captains are the sort of ones, sort of leaders, the sorts of authorities who bring their people into danger, you know, ever want to be boys. The kind of man who leads your wife into a situation where she has to choose between opposing, God and opposing you.

You don't want to be any of you. The sorts of parents who put your children in the situation where they have to choose between opposing, God and opposing you God, God is not the sort of God who puts his people at risk. He's the god. Who protects his people and delivers as people as he demonstrates because there's the king.

And there are at least three captains with 350s available to the king. And then there's a larger about the Lord Himself defends Elijah. And that's the person, those who don't like the burning of the captains in their 50s. That's the one who they're really against is the fire doesn't come out from a line to does it.

It comes down from heaven, That's the Lord who did that.

So a larger answers and and it happens. And then the next captain adds a couple words, He doesn't learn the lesson. He thinks that well, maybe the first captain was too weak.

So the so the second captain says, Thus has the king says said, and you notice the first captain had said, the king has said. So there's this more kind of royal pronouncement and the second captain says come down quickly when the first one in verse 9 had just said come down.

It is the following of men that when their ideas fail, and when the Lord rebukes their ideas, they think that the problem was they just didn't do it well enough. Probably the most obvious example of that. Narcissociety is how every generation breeds a new set of socialists who think that the previous failures were just because they didn't socialism hard enough.

But this happens in the church every generation has its own new ideas of how to no God, how to be at, peace in the heart, how to grow in holiness, and even what holiness is or what the knowledge of God is and rather returning to the Word of the Lord.

They try man's ideas even harder. Well, it doesn't go well for the second captain and his 50 for they to get burnt up. The Third captain then comes and he doesn't give a lie to a command. He doesn't come to capture, Elijah. He recognizes that standing before the man of God on the hill that he and his men are in Great Danger.

And so he comes not with a command, but a request, please let my life and the life of these 50 servants of yours. We precious in your sight. This is the one who's acting as an authority who has learned from God or is he was at least to us in the passage a picture of the sort of authority, that God is the one.

Who cares about the lives of those. You belong to Him and to protect some and those what is necessary for them. He's trying to save his life, He's trying to save the lives of these 50. He wants them to be able to go back to their wives and children before their duty is done.

And that's the one that the Lord says, says to return with. And of course, the word for a desire is that he is not going to live and the implication they even is he was going to live and that if he had sent to Yahweh, if he had turned to Yahwe instead of turning to veils above that, he would have recovered from his fall through the lattice of his window.

But you see the conclusion and verse 17 is not just our died. It's so he died. According to the Word of Yahweh, which Elijah had spoken The Word of the Lord comes true. It was not enough to recognize the. And lip service. The fact that God is holy and that those who are his servants are to be treated.

Not out of a respect for the servant but at a respect for the master three captains said, man of God, they gave the lip service of respect but only one went all the way and treated God's servant as as respect for the servants master deserved and the Lord is worthy of our respect.

That's why Sofia when we come and we worship. It's not just enough to know in your head Oh or worshipping God and be able to answer the questions and be able to say the words and sing the songs. But we need to respect God from our hearts and the acts of worship.

This is one of the reasons why My dear son. If someone wants you to sit with them in the afternoon service and you need to tell him, well sit with your dad or sure. Let's go sit with my mom and you go and you get that extra help to make sure that your worshipping God and not drawing pictures or writing notes for one another to see you.

You come and you worship God together from the heart. You want to be the sort of friend, who if you sit together, you're gonna honor your parents more. You're gonna honor the Lord more. You're going to worship better? Because each of you knows that the other one has one who respects God from the heart.

It's not just a problem with you, it's not even a problem with you something that I noticed and wanted to think about when we're in either the family worship. Sophia when we're in the family worship that you worship, God from the heart and not just have the right words on your lips and right ideas about what's going on, all three.

Captain said, man of God, they knew. And then when we worship either in the public worship, in the Lord's Day morning or the singing and preaching on the Lord's day evening that you'd be giving heart to God in sincerity and that we help one another to do that and whatever else comes out of your life.

That's really not the important thing. Important thing is how you treat the Lord because the rest of the act of Sophia and what she did, and the rest of the active Ezekiel, which he did, and the rest of your act of your friends, which they did, They are not as important.

The rest of the activate has iOS. He did, They're in another book. They're not that important. You go read them there. But how you interact with the Lord from your heart? That is the main thing and you need the Holy Spirit to give life to your heart. So let's ask him to do that.

My father in heaven. We thank you that you are the one who rather than giving us the burning up that we deserved have four giraffe out on the Lord. Jesus at the cross in our place because he is the kind of captain. And the kind of king, who for whom his people's lives, our precious in His sight.

Thank you, Father. That our lives were precious than your site that you gave Christ for us and we pray that you'd help us in the worship times whether our private worship and which we are. So often easily distracted in alone by ourselves from these family worship times or in the worship time in the times with others.

In the congregation, we pray that you would stir up our heart towards you and that we would seek you and then Lord, when we have questions, when we're in situations, we don't know. And we want to know when we are in danger of dying or field that we are.

We pray that you'd make our hearts to turn nowhere else, but you only to you make good use of the means you have provided as we trust in you to use them. Grant it. We ask in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.