

2 Kings Chapter 01 Commentary

2Ki 1:1 ¶ "Then Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab."

After the death of Ahab, king of Israel, Moab rebels against Israel. Since **2Sa 8:2 "And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And so the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts."** Moab has been subjected to rule from Israel, and paid tribute to Israel, when king David overcame them. Now they see an opportunity to rebel and get out from under the hand of Israel.

The Moabites were descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew. Their chief god was Chemosh, and they did not worship the God of Israel. We find in **2Ki 3:26-27; 26 "And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew swords, to break through even unto the king of Edom: but they could not. 27 Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land."** where Moab finally breaks free from the rule of Israel. This was accomplished when the king of Moab sacrificed his eldest son as a burnt offering upon the wall. This was so offensive to Israel that they left the Moabites to themselves and returned home. This reminds us that when we witness to people about the true and living God, and they continue to offer their sacrifices to a false God, we should depart from them with indignation and brush off the dust of our feet against them.

There is a spiritual lesson here for the New Testament Church. We cannot force any person to believe in God, repent in their heart, and turn from idolatry to God. In other words, Just as Israel could not get the king of Moab to submit to the ways of Israel, and worship the true and living God, no man can give the new birth to another. This is the work of the Holy Spirit and is required by Jesus Christ. Our influence in the lives of the children of God is limited to those who have already been given the new birth. These, we may guide by teaching them the ways of God, from the truths of the King James Bible, and they may be brought to understand the gospel, and thereby become disciples of Christ.

You can present the truth to an unregenerated sinner all the days of their life, and they will continually reject God, and the truth of God's Word. They will never believe that Jesus Christ is the only way of eternal salvation of God. I would add that there are many evangelists, so called, who believe they can teach a sinner to know, and believe in, God, and then that person will be born again. However, that is the polar opposite of what the scriptures teach.

You see, king David overcame the Moabites, but they never turned to God, and they sought continually to live as they wanted too, without interference from Israel, and Israel's God. Just follow their history through scripture and you will see this plainly. Likewise, many evangelists persuade men to join the church, but many are not children of God, and they will never submit their lives to God and will finally fall away. They will do as the Moabites did to Israel; they will always be a thorn in the side that is constantly pricking at the truth, and the New Testament Church, and may even persuade some to turn away from the faith of God.

2 "And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease."

This Ahaziah is the son of king Ahab and reigns as king over Israel. We notice that he does nothing to stop the revolt of Moab. Probably, Moab sensed that Ahaziah was a weak king and afraid to fight.

True to the raising of his idolatrous parents, Ahab and Jezebel, he inquires of his parents' false god, Baalzebub, another name for Baal, which is representative of the fly, and also a name given for Satan seen in **Mt 10:25 "It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?"**

Ahaziah is only asking if he will recover from his sickness, caused by his fall. Notice, Ahaziah is only concerned with his natural health, and he does not ask what happens when he dies.

Another lesson for us: children learn what they live, under their parents' rulership, and what they see their parents do. It is an admonition to us, if we fail to do as scripture demands in **Eph 6:4 "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."** The mothers are

likewise charged with the raising of the children in **1Ti 5:14** *"I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."* And further in **Tit 2:4-8**; **4** *"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. 6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. 7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, 8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."* Each mother has a congregation at home to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to. She is to teach them the word of God, just as Israel was commanded to teach their children the laws, commandments, and ordinances of God.

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 unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? 4 Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed."*

Elijah is sent to the messengers, which Ahaziah has sent to inquire of Baalzebub, and to give them the answer to his question. Elijah tells them, he shall surely die, because he does not recognize the God of Israel.

5 *"And when the messengers turned back unto him, he said unto them, Why are ye now turned back? 6 And they said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die."*

The messengers return. Ahaziah, knowing they have not had enough time to make it to Ekron and back, asks them; why have ye turned back? They give him the message that Elijah gave them.

Ahaziah shows his true, fallen, idolatrous, nature, because he does not seem to be affected by the news of his death, there being no signs of repentance. This reminds us that the messages of the gospel of Jesus Christ have no affect on the unregenerate sinner. Only those whom God has touched in regeneration are able to truly respond to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

7 *"And he said unto them, What manner of man was he which came up to meet you, and told you these words? 8 And they answered him, He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite. 9 ¶ Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down. 10 And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty."*

Ahaziah ask for a description of the man, and when they tell him, he understands that it is Elijah. It is very probable that Ahaziah had seen Elijah in the courtyard of his father, Ahab. Also, it was common knowledge that the prophets dressed that way in that time, for it is confirmed in **Heb 11:32-38**; **32 ¶** *"And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: 33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: 36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth."*

God is beginning a lesson to teach Israel who is really God in heaven and on earth. Ahaziah sends fifty men and their captain to bring Elijah to him. It is obvious that Ahaziah had ill intentions toward Elijah. How do we know this? Why send a captain and his fifty men, when all that was necessary was to send one messenger. This

ill intent is obvious in the manner in which the captain address Elijah, with no respect for Elijah's position, as a prophet of God, but orders him around as a commoner. Notice, the speech the leader uses: "**And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down.**" He is not asking but ordering, to which Elijah replies: if I be a man of God let fire come down from heaven and destroy thee and thy fifty men, and God does according to the word of Elijah. Obviously, someone had to witness this and send a report to the king of what had happened.

Some will say that Elijah should not have killed these people. We point out: Elijah, of his own power, could not bring fire down from heaven. Wherefore, it was not Elijah that killed them. God would not have answered Elijah's request if these people were not deserving of what happened to them, therefore, we understand that Elijah did not kill them, but God brought upon them his judicial judgment, manifesting that they truly were the despicable people Elijah knew them to be.

Also, God, through this judicial judgment on these men, proved that Elijah truly was a man of God.

11 "Again, also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly. 12 And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty."

Here we see Ahaziah's action of sending another fifty and their captain, is directing defiance toward God. He should have gotten the message the first time his men were destroyed. Ahaziah sends another fifty and their leader, with the same instructions, and commands Elijah "**O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly.**" Elijah gives the same answer, with the same result, because there is no respect for his position, which indicates that they have ill intent against Elijah. God therefore applies to them the same judicial judgment and validates again that Elijah truly is a prophet of God.

13 "And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. 14 Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore, let my life now be precious in thy sight."

Ahaziah's defiance toward God continues. Ahaziah sends another fifty and their captain to capture Elijah and bring Elijah to him. This captain has gotten the picture: Elijah is not just a man, but a man of God, and a prophet of God, who is to be treated with true humbleness. He understands, Elijah is not to be trifled with, nor ordered around as some commoner. This captain comes to Elijah, bowing in humbleness and pleading for the lives of his fifty men and himself. This captain comes in humility and has no ill intent in his heart. Unlike the other two captains, who intended to forcibly take Elijah, without regard for his position as a prophet of God.

This reminds us of a New Testament Scripture in **1Ti 5:17-22; 17 ¶ "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The laborer is worthy of his reward. 19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. 21 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality. 22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure."** God's ministers today are to be treated with the respect, due their office, given to them by God. Any honor they receive should be credited to God and not to the man.

Neither are we to lay hands on them suddenly, (meaning to not grab them with ill intent or to do them harm) as these former two captains would have forcibly taken Elijah, and then Ahaziah would have probably had Elijah put him to death. Ministers are not better, in the flesh, than any other man. However, God has called them and set them apart for the ministry, just as God called Elijah and set him apart to be a prophet of God. They receive honor, only, in the fact that God has called them to their office, and position in life.

15 "And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king. 16 And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron, is it not because there is no God in Israel to enquire of his word? therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. 17 So he died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram reigned in his stead in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah; because he had no son. 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?"

Now we see: Elijah has been acting as directed by God, with God telling him what to do and say. God had told him previously; do not go with the other two captains, for they will do you harm. However, since this captain came to Elijah in humility, God tells Elijah to go with him, and you will be safe.

Elijah goes, as commanded by God, and in so doing, Elijah magnifies his office and the name of God. Elijah delivers the same message he had sent by the first messengers, whom Ahaziah had sent to inquire of Baalzebub. The message being, because you have forgotten the God of Israel, and you have turned to Baalzebub, you shall surely die.

Surely, anyone, with God's grace in their hearts and minds, can see that it is imperative to remember our God. We can easily see; we are to wait upon the commandment of God, to act in response to directives from ungodly men. For example: during the Covid outbreak, churches were commanded by the law to not assemble themselves together. This is a direct conflict to the word of God, which tells us in **Heb 10:23-25; 23 "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."**

We should be faithful and do as the disciples said in **Ac 5:25-33; 25 "Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people. 26 ¶ Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned. 27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. 33 When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them."**

Did you notice, the reason the priesthood of Israel was commanding the disciples of Christ, to stop preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ? It was because it pointed out, they were guilty of the murder of Jesus through false accusations. A charge they did not want to be guilty of but could not avoid. The charge cut them to the heart so badly they started planning to take the lives of the disciples. This is same principle of the first two captains and their fifties.

Ahab, Ahaziah's father, received a message of death from God and ignored it. Ahaziah received a message of death from God, and he likewise ignored it. This demonstrates, to us today, what a great blessing it is to be raised by godly parents, who bring us up in the nurture and admonition of the LORD.

Ahaziah demonstrates that honoring the gods of the earth, over the true and living God, has dire consequences. It is a warning to us that we do not yield to our inherited flesh nature. If we do the consequences will not be good. Rather, we obey the new nature of Christ in us, which will bring us heavenly blessings. Thank you, King Jesus, that you have given these examples in scripture, of what not to do, and what we are to do. Help us to be faithful and true children of God in all things, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen!