

### **A Stiff Necked Kind Destroyed without Remedy (2 Kings 1:1-18)**

- Conventional wisdom: better to learn from the mistakes of others than your own
- This was not the case with Ahaziah who was the son & heir of king Ahab
- After Ahab's death during the battle of Ramoth Gilead, Ahaziah succeeded him
- The report we receive in 1 Kings 22:51-53 Ahaziah did not learn from his parents
- Ahaziah had to learn for himself just how impotent Baal was
- Fact that he sought a Baal outside of Israel testified to Elijah's effective ministry
- This time since the son did not learn from his parents: the results are more severe
- Fire fell from above but not on an altar with a sacrifice but on Ahaziah's men (10)
- The first 50 soldiers should have convinced Ahaziah, but his heart was hard

#### **I. Hardness and Stubbornness of Heart Ruled by Sin**

- Ahaziah lived in the steady glare of the power & truth of God's Word
- He had written the Word out according to the Law & he had a disastrous father
- Ahaziah had every reason to live a godly life pleasing to the living God
- Ahaziah disregarded the Word of God and forced Israel to worship Baal
- Ahaziah saw the devastation of drought & the same drought broken by the Word
- God warned Ahaziah 3 times: 1<sup>st</sup> the nation of Moab rebelled against Ahaziah
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ahaziah suffered a fall (v2) & was seriously injured 3<sup>rd</sup> Elijah warned him
- Still Ahaziah's heart was unchanged; it could only be change by grace

#### **II. Man's Will Versus God's Will**

- Ahaziah was clearly confronted by God's Word, but still he rebelled & rejected it
- Ahaziah was infuriated by Elijah's message reacting violently sending 50 soldiers
- Did he not realize Elijah spoke for God, he could kill Elijah but not Elijah's God
- Ahaziah's attempts to silence the word of God were met by devastating results
- v9 'man of God - king says come down' 10 'If I am man of God...fire come down
- The next 50 had the same disastrous end; the last 50 were humble & were spared
- The God of the Bible will not tolerate human arrogance – He answers in wrath

#### **III. God's Sovereign Will Will Be Done**

- The word of God was vindicated; the pretension that set itself up was destroyed
- Another faithful messenger came from God. God's own dear Son who was killed
- Elijah did not come with fire to rescue him, He quenched the fire of God's wrath