

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE CALL TO “COME DOWN!”
2 KINGS 1:1-18

Introduction

Tonight we going to look at Ahaziah of Israel, the wicked son of the wicked Ahab whom we met in the closing verses of 1 Kings. (*1 Kings 22:51-53*)

Here we see yet another wicked king cut out of the same wicked mold as Israel’s previous kings! Ahaziah walked in the ways of his father Ahab and his mother Jezebel and in the ways of Jeroboam all of whom we have already seen in our studies in 1 Kings were not only idolators, but wicked to the core!

One thing that obviously stands out here is that Ahaziah learned absolutely nothing from the LORD’s dealings with his father Ahab! (Remember how we saw the LORD revealing Himself to Ahab on seven different occasions so that Ahab would know that HE is the LORD?) But Ahab didn’t get it! Ahab seemed to learn nothing at all in God’s dealings with him! Is it any wonder that Ahaziah wound up the way that he did? Like father, like son!

Ahaziah, like his father, was a man who was under a death sentence from the LORD as part of the judgment on the entire house of Ahab! Ahab was the first to die! We will see in this passage that Ahaziah was the second to die!

Just as Ahab had ignored and denied the LORD God Jehovah of the GLORY THAT IS HIS ALONE, so did Ahaziah! Anytime a person does evil and lives wickedly, they are ignoring God and denying His glory!

We read here that Ahaziah blatantly ignored and denied the LORD God Jehovah by sending his messengers to inquire from one of the many false gods of his day about his injured condition! Let’s see what happened!

Ahaziah had been injured and became sick from a fall from his upper chamber in his house! (*Vs 1-2*) No further details are given about his injuries and resulting disease. **One might think that such a thing might cause a person to begin thinking about how they’ve lived their life and maybe to repent and begin seeking the LORD in their life, but that was not the case!** Rather than seek the LORD, he sought to one of the local gods of Ekron known as *Baalzebub*, which means – *Baal of the fly*”. Maybe the flies were causing issues with his wound from his fall. (I hate flies and maggots!)

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE CALL TO “COME DOWN!”
2 KINGS 1:1-18

(Now this kind of reminds me of the many gods of the Egyptians that the LORD addressed in His judgments on them—They had all kinds of gods they worshiped that weren’t gods at all!)

That act of seeking a false god was a slap in the face of the one true God—the LORD God Jehovah! And so the Angel of the LORD sent Elijah to meet these messengers of Ahaziah as they were on their way to enquire for the king from this dead idol! What was Elijah’s message from the Word of the LORD? (*Vs 3-4*)

Well, rather than continue on their way to the idol, they turned back to Ahaziah who was puzzled as to why they had done that! (*Vs 5*)

They explained to the king what happened as they began their journey and the message of judgment they were sent to deliver to King Ahaziah! (*Vs 6*)

Ahaziah then enquired a little more about the manner or nature of the man who gave them this message and he was able to deduce that it was Elijah! (*Vs 7-8*) Ahaziah was indeed familiar with Elijah from his father’s dealings with him!

Well, Ahaziah wanted a face to face meeting with Elijah! (*Vs 9*) Now, we are not told specifically, but apparently Ahaziah was trying to intimidate Elijah! Why else would you send fifty soldiers and their captain to Elijah? This was a show of force!

Now *verse 9*, is where I want us to focus on! Elijah was not hiding here! In fact we see that He was on the top of a hill! He was easy to find!

Notice what this captain said to Elijah! **“Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down.”** One thing that is missing here is whether this was said in a derogatory manner or even as a threat! I don’t know about you, but I don’t think this was said in a respectful way or in a mild mannered voice!

How so? Elijah’s reaction to what was said speaks volumes as to how it was said and how Elijah interpreted it! (*Vs 10*)

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE CALL TO “*COME DOWN!*”
2 KINGS 1:1-18

In this Chapter we see that King Ahaziah of Israel is a type of Satan himself!

“*Come down!*” is a call from the prince of this world, Satan himself, delivered to the servants of God, Believers, by those who serve Satan!

Satan and his cohorts want us to “*Come down!*” from our faithful Church attendance and service for God to attend to do the bidding of this world!

Satan wants us to “*Come down!*” from what he and the world sees as our arrogant position claiming Jesus is the One and only Way to God!

Satan and those who serve him want us to “*Come down!*” and be more tolerant to their worldview that all religious roads lead to the same place! The world believes that we’re all headed to the same place, we’re just taking different roads to get there and all the roads that people may choose to take are just as valid as THE WAY we have chosen!”

Matthew 7:13-14—“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

Satan and those who serve him want us to “*Come down!*” from our belief that the Lord Jesus Christ is THE TRUTH! They want us to acknowledge that truth is whatever one wants to believe that truth is! You have your TRUTH and they have their truth! But listen, real TRUTH is not up for negotiation and cannot be changed!

Satan and those who serve him want us to “*Come down!*” from our belief that the Lord Jesus Christ is THE LIFE! After all, this is a “*Live and let live*” world we live in! You live your life and let others live their life and keep your Jesus to yourself! Nobody wants to hear that His righteousness is needed by all! “*Come down!*” off of that!

Satan and his cohorts want us to “*Come down!*” from our living to please Christ, from our living a life transformed by Him! Just “*Come down!*” and live your life according to the dictates of the world!

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE CALL TO “*COME DOWN!*”
2 KINGS 1:1-18

Make no mistake about it, Ahaziah sent these soldiers to take Elijah by force and make him do what Ahaziah wanted him to do! But we see that God protected Elijah from Ahaziah’s soldiers!

How did Elijah respond to this call to “*Come down!*”?

I. WE SEE ELIJAH’S POSITION WITH THE LORD WHEN TROUBLE CAME! (Vs 9)

We know that Elijah was a servant of God who was obedient to what the LORD told him to do and going where the LORD directed him to go! Nothing had changed in how Elijah chose to live his life!

I have no doubt that he was on this hilltop in his obedience to the LORD! In the days of old, men went to mountain and hill tops to worship and commune with God!

There is no doubt that Elijah was faithfully walking in steps directed by the LORD and faithfully worshipping and communing with God!

The call to “*Come down!*” comes from those who are ungodly to those who are, by God’s good grace, walking with the LORD in both worship of Him and in obedience to Him!

If you are not walking with God in worship and obedience, you are already down! There is no need for the enemy to say “*Come down!*” to one who is already of the world and walking in fleshly ways like the world!

To be asked to “*Come down!*” implies that you are living on a higher plane! But realize that the only one that we are to “*Come down!*” before is the LORD Himself!

James 4:6, 10—“6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.... “10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE CALL TO “COME DOWN!”
2 KINGS 1:1-18

II. WE SEE ELIJAH’S CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD WHEN TROUBLE CAME! (Vs 10a)

What the captain said to Elijah and, no doubt, the way he said it, elicited a sharp response from Elijah!

Elijah knew himself to be a man of God! So Elijah said here to begin with, *“If I be a man of God...”*

The confidence shown here by Elijah reflects the faith of one who has a personal walk with the LORD.

Romans 8:31b – “If God be for us, who can be against us?”

So we see his courage even in the face of the enemy’s taunts!

Question: How easy is your faith shaken when trouble comes?

Hebrews 11:32-40 shows the faith of some in the face of victory before their enemies as well as the faith of others who held to their faith even as they were put through difficult circumstances.

III. WE SEE ELIJAH’S EXPECTATION FROM THE LORD WHEN TROUBLE CAME! (Vs 10b-12)

A. Elijah’s Expectation Was For The LORD To Do Something That Was God Like! God brought forth a miracle here on behalf of His servant Elijah—Not once, but twice! The LORD did this, not Elijah!

Let me ask, just how big is your God to you when you find yourself in difficult circumstances?

Listen, our LORD spoke this universe and everything in it into existence! He gave life to everything that has life! He even called the dead to life again! He is in absolute control of everything that He has made! He has stilled storms, made the blind to see, made the lame to walk again, caused the deaf to hear, and caused the dumb to speak...I could go on!

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE CALL TO “COME DOWN!”
2 KINGS 1:1-18

We see that the LORD was magnified in Elijah’s life!
He saw that he served a great God!

Did you know that God can still use miraculous ways in answer to our trouble if He chooses to? It doesn’t mean that He always will! But He loves to show Himself glorious on behalf of His children!

I think fire coming down from heaven qualifies as pretty glorious!

Elijah’s Expectation Was For The LORD To Do Something That Was God Like!

B. Elijah’s Expectation Was For the LORD To Protect Him From Ahaziah And His Servants!

After all, he had done nothing and said nothing in all of this that wasn’t from the LORD! So, because of his obedience to the LORD, there was no fear or trembling on the part of Elijah!

And I want you to note that the LORD was right there with Elijah as he was going through this! (e.g. Just like the LORD would later be with the Hebrew children in the fire!)
Now, we see this happened, not once, but twice!

IV. WE SEE THE RESULT OF THE LORD ANSWERING ON ELIJAH’S BEHALF! (Vs 13-15)

When its clear that something supernatural is going on, things change!

There was a definite change in demeanor by the third captain that approached Elijah! In fact, the third captain begged for mercy for his men and himself instead of demanding that Elijah do anything!

When that humbling happened, the LORD was honored and then the Angel of the LORD told Elijah to *“Go down with him: be not afraid of him.”*

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE CALL TO “*COME DOWN!*”
2 KINGS 1:1-18

So Elijah went before Ahaziah and spoke the same Word of the LORD as he spoke when he met those messengers that were headed to inquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron. (*Vs 16*)

In all of this call by Ahaziah and his servants for Elijah to “*Come down!*”, when all was said and done, Elijah came from where he was only in response to the Word of the LORD for him to do so!

And NOTHING changed of the Word of the LORD against Ahaziah! All of his attempt at flaunting his authority was for naught! All he really managed to do by doing what he did was for him to lose two captains and 100 other of his men and then he lost face before the other captain and his 50 men!

Ahaziah’s attempt to exalt himself came up lame as the LORD alone was the One exalted in the end! God’s Word was fulfilled in spite of all of Ahaziah’s efforts! (*Vs 17-18*)

Conclusion

The devil and those that are of him still try to get us who belong to the LORD to “*Come down!*”.

We just need to be faithful and obedient to the LORD and have our confidence and our expectation in Him and listen to His leading in our lives and everything will turn out alright for us!

Instead of heeding the call to “*Come down!*”, we need to heed the call of our LORD!

Matthew 11:28 – “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Hebrews 4:16 – “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”