

Is There No God in Israel?

2 Kings 1

1. There Is Only _____ God (v. 1-8)
 - a. This God _____ His adversaries.
 - b. There is no _____ on this issue.
 - i. Contrary to Ahaziah's _____
 - ii. Ahaziah should have known _____
 - iii. Error of consulting the "Lord of the _____"
 - c. This God will have His _____
 - i. Those who intervene and cause _____
 - ii. Those who speak His _____
 - iii. Those who look and act _____

2. The LORD – _____ Is God! (v. 9-12)
 - a. Able to _____ His people
 - i. One against a _____!
 - ii. Against attempts to _____ or destroy
 - b. Able to bring _____ upon His enemies
 - i. _____ fire from heaven – judgment
 - ii. _____ fire from heaven - confirmation

3. The God of _____ (v. 13-18)
 - a. Able to deflate _____ or reveal _____
 - i. Posture of _____
 - ii. Plea for _____
 - b. Arms His servants with _____ and truth
 - i. Able to approach an enemy _____
 - ii. Armed with the Word of _____
 - c. _____ kings and kingdoms

If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. (Matthew 10:25b)

Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, 'The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God.'

1 Kings 18:38-39

Follow-Up Quote

“Yet Ahaziah’s was also *a foolish idolatry*. For a believer in Yahweh there is such a sadness about it all. Here is the king, perhaps near life’s end – at least his request (v. 2) suggests Ahaziah knew it could be his ‘last illness.’ And in this desperate moment we hear, ‘Go, inquire of Baal-zebub.’ The moment so crucial, the recourse so asinine. The spectre of death does not necessarily produce good sense.

“In one of his novels Walker Percy has his lead character. Will Barrett, writing a letter in which he lampoons both Christians and unbelievers – particularly the latter. According to Barrett, an unbeliever is *cray* partly because

he takes comfort and ease, plays along with the game, watches TV, drinks his drink, laughs, curses politicians, and now and again to relieve the boredom and the farce (of which he is dimly aware) goes off to war to shoot other people – for all the world as if his prostate were not growing cancerous, his arteries turning to chalk, his brain cells dying off by the millions, as if the worms were not going to have him in no time at all.

Staring our end in the face, whether slowly or suddenly, ought to drive us to sobriety and truth. But it doesn’t necessarily drive us to sobriety; that was Will Barrett’s point. And sometimes it makes us sober (as, apparently, in Ahaziah’s case) but not smart (seeking Baal, not Yahweh). Death is no time to be playing with dead-end religious options. We must have the One wh has the words of eternal life (cf. John 6:68).”

(Dale Ralph Davis, *2 Kings: The Power and the Fury*, 2005, p. 18)