

Ahaziah Follows In His Father's Worship of Baal Rather Than God

2 Kings 1

Group ¹	C	V	Description
Ahaziah's Messengers Meet Elijah	1	1-4	Ahaziah sends men to inquire of Baal-zebul rather than the Lord
		5-8	Ahaziah asks why the men return
		9-10	Ahaziah sends a captain of 50 to Elijah and he is consumed by fire
		11-12	A second captain of 50 sent to Elijah is consumed by fire
		13-16	A third captain of 50 begs Elijah to come to Ahaziah
Jehoram Reigns over Israel		17-18	Ahaziah dies and Jehoram, his son, reigns

Reflections

After falling through a lattice and becoming ill, Ahaziah sends men to inquire of the god Baal-zebul (lord of the flies). The group is confronted by Elijah, who asks them why they go inquire of Baal-zebul rather than God, YHWH. Because of this, Elisha pronounces that Ahaziah will die on his sickbed in a short time.

Initially, Elijah isn't known by the original group until they are asked to describe the man. Upon giving the description of "a hairy man with a leather girdle about his loins." At once the identity of the man is known, Elijah the Tishbite.

Three times then Ahaziah sends a captain of 50 to ask Elijah to come and speak with him directly. The first two groups were consumed by fire sent down by God according to Elijah's pronouncement. Finally the third captain pleads for his life and the angel of the Lord tells Elijah it is safe to go down with him. Elijah then gives the pronouncement of Ahaziah's death in person and it is fulfilled. Ahaziah's son, Jehoram, becomes king after him.

The name Baal-zebul is very similar to the name Beelzebul who the Jewish religious leaders said was the source of Jesus' miracles rather than God, YHWH, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Matthew 10:25; 12:24, 27; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15, 18-19).

Matthew 10:25 NASB "It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household!"

Matthew 12:24, 27 NASB But when the Pharisees heard *this*, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons." ... **27** "If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? For this reason they will be your judges."

Mark 3:22 NASB The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

Luke 11:15, 18-19 NASB But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." ... **18** "If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. **19** And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? So they will be your judges."

Also consider the attire of Elijah as compared to John the Baptist, who Jesus said was like Elijah, who

¹ (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

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was to appear before the arrival of the Messiah.

Matthew 3:4 NASB Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

Mark 1:6 NASB John was clothed with camel's hair and *wore* a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey.

References to John the Baptist and Elijah from the gospels.

Malachi 4:5-6 NASB "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. **6** "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."

Luke 1:13-17 NASB But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. **14** "You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. **15** "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb. **16** "And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. **17** "It is he who will go *as a forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Matthew 11:11-15 NASB "Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. **12** "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. **13** "For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. **14** "And if you are willing to accept *it*, John himself is Elijah who was to come. **15** "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Matthew 17:10-13 NASB And His disciples asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" **11** And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; **12** but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." **13** Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

Mark 9:11-13 NASB They asked Him, saying, "Why is it that the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" **12** And He said to them, "Elijah does first come and restore all things. And yet how is it written of the Son of Man that He will suffer many things and be treated with contempt? **13** "But I say to you that Elijah has indeed come, and they did to him whatever they wished, just as it is written of him."

It is interesting that John didn't see himself like that though, but it makes sense as he didn't want to draw attention to himself but on Christ.

John 1:19-25 NASB This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" **20** And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." **21** They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he *said*, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." **22** Then they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" **23** He said, "I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE

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LORD,' as Isaiah the prophet said." 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

Don't ever underestimate the power of God to accomplish His plans.

Key Words: Old Testament, History, 2 Kings, Ahaziah, Elijah, Jehoram, Baal-zebub, Jesus, John the Baptist



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Bibliography

(NASB) New American Standard Bible. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.