

22 Kings 1:1-18

God Judges Ahaziah

Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab.

² Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria, and was injured; so he sent messengers and said to them, "Go, inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this injury."

If you were going to die, would you want to know?

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 to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?'"

Why might a person ask Baal-Zebub if they will die instead of God?

⁴ Now therefore, thus says the LORD: 'You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" So Elijah departed.

⁵ And when the messengers returned to him, he said to them, "Why have you come back?"

⁶ So they said to him, "A man came up to meet us, and said to us, 'Go, return to the king who sent you, and say to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?'"'"



DEAR LORD, PLEASE BLESS THIS BURGLARY WE ARE ABOUT TO COMMIT. KEEP US SAFE AS WE DRIVE THERE AND WE THANK YOU FOR THE BOUNTY WE ARE ABOUT TO RECEIVE. WE PROMISE TO TITHE OUR TEN PERCENT.



We think of Baal-Zebub as another term for Satan. Is it possible this being was something else?

Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'""

God killed Ahaziah because he asked the wrong God for advice. Was Ahaziah special or would God have killed anyone who asked Baal-Zebub?

⁷ Then he said to them, "What kind of man was it who came up to meet you and told you these words?"

⁸ So they answered him, "A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist."

And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

This does sound a bit like John the Baptist. Do you think spirits can be transferred to other bodies?



⁹ Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: “Man of God, the king has said, ‘Come down!’”

¹⁰ So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, “If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. ¹¹ Then he sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men.

How did Elijah know he could call fire from heaven? (Verse 15)

And he answered and said to him: “Man of God, thus has the king said, ‘Come down quickly!’”

¹² So Elijah answered and said to them, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.



Do you think God threw fire down from His throne in heaven, into our world?

¹³ Again, he sent a third captain of fifty with his fifty men. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and pleaded with him, and said to him: “Man of God, please let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight. ¹⁴ Look, fire has come down from heaven and burned up the first two captains of fifties with their fifties. But let my life now be precious in your sight.”

If Elijah had said no, would he have been able to call fire down from heaven again?

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, “Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.” So he arose and went down with him to the king. ¹⁶ Then he said to him, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of His word?

How would they have inquired of Baal-Zebub. And would they have expected an answer?

Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.”

¹⁷ So Ahaziah died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. Because he had no son, Jehoram became king in his place, in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah.

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?

How many people died in this chapter? Was the knowledge of whether Ahaziah would live worth all of the deaths?



Later in life, Elijah actually got pretty proficient at calling down fire.