

Life Lesson 82
Elijah and Ahaziah
Text: II Kings 1

Introduction

Wicked King Ahab died, and his son began to rule Israel. King Ahaziah didn't learn from his father's mistakes. Instead he kept on doing bad things.

The Story

Then Ahaziah fell off his roof. His house, like many in that country, had a room up on the flat roof. We don't know how it happened, but he somehow fell off the roof and through a lattice before landing on the ground. It didn't kill him right away, but he felt so sick, he was afraid he would die.

"Send messengers to the prophets of Baalzebub," Ahaziah said. "Have them ask Baalzebub if I'm going to die."

The messengers started out, but they met a prophet of the true God before they had gone far. God had sent an angel with a message for Elijah to give to Ahaziah.

"God has a question for your master," Elijah told the messengers. "He says, 'Is there no God in Israel that you must go and ask Baalzebub, the god of Ekron?'"

"God says to tell the king that because he has done this foolish thing, he will die from his injuries," Elijah said.

The messengers returned to the palace. The king was surprised to see them.

"What are you doing back so soon?" he asked.

The messengers told about meeting the prophet and gave the king the message from God.

"I know who that was," the king said. "It was Elijah the Tishbite. Send a captain and 50 men to capture him and bring him back here."

The captain and 50 soldiers went after Elijah, but they didn't return with him. God sent fire from heaven that burned all of them up.

Do you think that made Ahaziah fear God and repent? No, the foolish king sent another captain and another 50 men to capture Elijah. The same thing happened to them. Still, the king didn't repent. He sent yet a third captain and another 50 men after Elijah.

The king wasn't very smart, but the captain of the third 50 was a little wiser. He didn't march up and wave his sword at Elijah as the other captains had done. He didn't order him to come down. Instead he fell on his knees before Elijah.

"O man of God, please let my life and the life of my men be precious in your sight. We know fire came down and burned up the other soldiers. Please don't let that happen to us."

The angel of God told Elijah, "Go with him. You don't need to be afraid of him."

So Elijah went down to the city with the captain and his men. Maybe the king thought he could threaten Elijah and make him take back his prophecy. He didn't understand that Elijah only said what God told him to say. Can anyone threaten God and make Him change His mind? Of course not!

"God said you will die of your injuries because you didn't seek him, but sent to Baalzebub," Elijah said. "You will never leave your bed. You will die."

And he did die. God was angry that the king had looked to Baalzebub for direction. Did you know that Satan is often called Baalzebub? God didn't want the king of His people asking Satan for direction. All along, God was ready and able to give the help His people needed.

The Life Lesson

The king was foolish, and so are many people today. Instead of praying and asking for God's direction, or searching God's word to find answers, they ask the devil! Not everyone realizes it, but when they read horoscopes to find direction for their lives, or to palm readers or fortune tellers, they are really asking the devil for advice.

Do you think the devil will give you good advice? I don't think so! He hates you and would delight to see you suffer.

Do you think it makes God happy to see people ignoring Him and asking the devil what they should do? No, it grieves Him and angers Him. Stay away from horoscopes and fortune tellers. You might end up like foolish Ahaziah.

Review Questions

Who was king after wicked Ahab?

Ahaziah

Was Ahaziah a good king or bad king?

Bad

What happened to him?

He fell through a lattice on the roof and became sick.

What foolish thing did Ahaziah do?

He sent messengers to ask Baalzebub if he would live or die,

What did Elijah tell the messengers who were going to seek answers from Baal?

He said that Ahaziah would die.

What happened to the first 50 soldiers Ahaziah sent to bring Elijah back?

Fire fell from heaven and burned them up.

What happened to the next 50?

They burned in fire from Heaven, too.

What happened to the third group of 50 soldiers?

They came to Elijah on their knees asking for mercy and begging him to come with them to the palace.

Can anyone threaten God or change God's mind?

No