



Man On Fire!
2 Kings 1:9-15
Marching Through
2 Kings



Observations

- As 2 Kings opens, the infamous king of Israel, Ahab, had died. Ahaziah, the son of Ahab and Jezebel, becomes king of Israel
- Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, as heads of state, had done more evil than anyone who had ever held the position, 1 Kings 16:30 (his wife's name still is a mark of disrespect)
- So subsequently, a void in spiritual leadership continues in the nation of Israel

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.” Prov.14:34 (countries, states, cities, families, homes, Ahaziah)

- It is therefore not surprising that the children of parents who adapt a lifestyle of immoral practices (Ahaziah) will themselves struggle with immoral practices (children of abuse, commonly abuse; children of divorce often struggle with divorce, children of alcoholics often struggle with alcohol and drug abuse, children of wayward parents)
- When sin overwhelms righteousness, the people are doomed!



Look at Numbers 14:18

“The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

- The scripture is not saying that the children have to be evil
- But so often, the sinful traits of parents that are seen by the children, are repeated in the child's adult life
- Sometimes a *“please don't do as I have done”* conversation is necessary to help your children see God! (you can't hide some things forever) Ephesians 4:15



Observations

- **The country of Moab had been captured by David decades ago and had been forced to pay taxes to Israel, 2 Samuel 8:2; but when Ahab died, Moab decided to stop paying tribute, sensing a weakness in leadership**
 - **One of the characteristics of a country with weak leadership is a manifestation of defiance amongst their enemies (observe Russia, North Korea, and China's occasional provocation of the U.S.)**
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King Ahaziah son of Ahab Ruled for Two Years

“Ahaziah, son of Ahab, became king of Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, because he followed the ways of his father and mother and Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin. He served and worshipped Baal and aroused the anger of the Lord, the God of Israel, just like his father had done.”

1 Kings 22:51-53

- **The Bible says that one day king Ahaziah fell through a balcony on the second floor of his palace and was injured significantly (enough for him to think about his possible finality)**
- **Has anything ever happened to you to cause you to think about your physical demise? (surgery, motor vehicle accident, illness)**
- **What will be important at that time? Will it be your record/ relationship with God (which is the same issue that should be important now)? Don't wait until; Hezekiah 2 Kings 20
*"remember who I am and what I've done"***
- **Who do you listen to for life's answers? (movie stars, psychics, motivational speakers, the rich and famous, see Luke 12)**
- **How much money you make has NO bearing on where you will live in eternity (many chase after the wrong thing; temporal things; Christ spoke about valuing what matters, Luke 12:15)**

Look At What The King Did!

“...He sent messengers saying to them, “Go and consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, to see if I will recover from this injury.” 2 Kings 1:2

- It is profoundly sad that when in trouble, this king of God’s people wants to rely on

A god who is powerless

A god who couldn’t move

A god who couldn’t speak

A god Who Is Morally Undemanding!

Children of a Loser God! (Wing Man)

Observations

- So the king's messengers head out to ask a question of a god who can't answer it, and run into Elijah, the man of God, who was headed to meet them who already knows the question and has the answer
- Aren't you glad that as you walk through life you walk with a map, the Bible, written by a God who knows the questions you have? (situation, issues, peculiarities)
- Aren't you glad that this book is just as relevant and real as the day that it was written? (The principles are just as powerful now as they were then)
- Aren't you glad that you have a book that can make some sense out of the senseless world in which we live? (Bible tells how to live in a pandemic world, and world of social unrest)

Observations

- The messengers got back to the king sooner than expected and he wondered why?
- They said that they ran into a man who told them that they were wasting their time trying to ask a god that had no power, a question. The man said that he already new from God the answer to their question concerning the king's prognosis.
- The message to the king delivered from God was that because you have not sought out and depended on the true and living God, you will never leave the bed that you are in. You will die in your bed.
- When you IGNORE God in your life, you pay a penalty (Love thy neighbor as thyself/Biblical manners)
- Jesus wants all of your life or none of it (work, home recreation) Matthew 12:30

- **When the king asked who this man was, they described a man with whom his family already had a history**

This man had told his father it wouldn't rain for 3 years

This man had challenged 400 of his mother's prophets and 450 prophets of Baal in a showdown of force and won, 1 Kings 18:19

- **They described who the king was able to recognize as Elijah the Tishbite**
- **Question: What should a child do when that child recognizes that their parents are walking immorally away from God?**

Too Many Times Children Will Embellish Their Parents' Bad Behavior!

- **Parents smoke cigarettes—children smoke cigarettes and marijuana or harder drugs**
- **Parents cheat on their spouse—children cheat on theirs, (It's no big thing any more)**
- **Parents worship occasionally—children don't worship at all**
- **King Ahaziah walked in the ways of his parents (ignoring God), and as a result he sent 3 groups of 50 soldiers to have the man of God arrested, putting those under him in danger**

- The first group of soldiers find Elijah in broad daylight sitting on top of a hill
- The captain yells, *“preacher man of God, we have come to arrest you, come down now!”*
- Elijah then says, *“If I am a preacher man let fire come down from heaven and destroy you and all of the others!”*
- *And It Did!*
- The king sends a second captain out, who adds to the same order “at once” to Elijah: *Gets Same Results!*



The Third Captain Acknowledges God, And Pled For All Of Their Lives!

- When he comes to the same hill, he falls on his knees and *recognizes* God and Elijah's authority in his life
- His attitude reminds me of Micah 6:8

..... *"And what does the Lord require of you?*

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

- Mercy is defined as punishment you deserve but don't receive (it's good to acknowledge punishment that we deserve but don't get)
- We have a tendency to ignore God's "urgings" in our lives, even when calamities happen (death, pandemic)
- God's urgings should be reminders of our own finality

The Captain's Humility Saved His Life And The Life Of His Men

- God spared their lives and Elijah went to the king, *not captured but escorted*, Proverbs 16:7
- Elijah gave the king, face to face, the same message he had given the men about the king: that the king had chosen to ignore God and because of that, he would not leave his bed of affliction (Ahaziah didn't recognize mercy when being presented with it. He was given time)
- Question: Are we setting ourselves up like Ahaziah because we have chosen to ignore God? (our habits, practices, speech, behavior) Isaiah 55:7

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent Of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38