



Lesson 122

Elijah Confronts Ahaziah

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Text: 2 Kings 1:1-18 ● Setting: circa 852 B.C., in Samaria ● Main Characters: God, Elijah, and Ahaziah ● Plot: Ahab's wicked son is injured in an accident and later dies of those injuries as punishment for his idolatry. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Key word(s): “ _____ ” ● Climax: 2 Kings 1:10 <i>And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.</i> |
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Falling King

1. (v 2) Ahaziah, the son of Ahab, fell through the lattice of an upper level room and was severely injured. But instead of going to God in prayer, he sent delegates to inquire of _____, the false god of Ekron.
 - (a) (vv 3-6) Elijah the prophet intercepted the wicked king's delegates and gave them a divine message: *“Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to inquire of Baal-zebul the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely ____.”*
 - (b) (vv 7-8) The delegates returned to Ahaziah with the sobering message. From their description of the prophet, Ahaziah immediately knew the animal skin-clad, leather-girdled prophet was none other than _____.

Falling Fire

2. (vv 9-12) Ahaziah twice sent a band of fifty soldiers to capture the prophet, and twice Elijah called down fire from heaven that consumed his would-be captors. Both events were a demonstration of God's _____ against Ahaziah's idolatry and proof of Elijah's status as a legitimate prophet of the LORD.
 - (a) (vv 13-16) The third captain to attempt to bring Elijah into custody wisely came in a spirit of contrite _____. The angel of the LORD told Elijah to proceed with this third captain to Ahaziah's palace.
 - (b) (vv 17-18) Elijah personally delivered God's message to Ahaziah, and according to the word of the LORD, the wicked king died of his injuries. Because Ahaziah had no son, _____ his brother became king in his stead.

Application

3. Ahaziah's freak accident and subsequent death reminds us that not even royal palaces are safe from God's judgment. Matthew Henry compares Ahab's and Ahaziah's death: "A man's house is his castle, but not to secure him against the _____ of God. The cracked lattice is as fatal to the son, when God pleases to make it so, as the bow drawn at a venture was to the father."¹

4. Ahaziah's response to his life-threatening injuries reveals his heart. God uses _____ in our lives to stir us to seek him, and our reactions show where our hearts are in relation to the LORD (*cf* Psa. 119:71).

Matthew Henry notes: "We should be more thoughtful what will become of us after death than how, or when, or where, we shall die, and more desirous to be told how we may conduct ourselves well in our sickness, and get good to our _____ by it, than whether we shall recover from it."²

5. Elijah's calling down fire from heaven was not an act of personal revenge, but one of divine judgment. The disciples, in their immature zeal, desired to do the same thing to some inhospitable Samaritans, but the Lord forbade them (Luke 9:54, 55). What does this teach the Christian about how we should act towards our opponents? _____

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): "man of God" • 1. Baal-zebub; a) die; b) Elijah • 2. wrath; a) humility; b) Jehoram • 3. judgments • 4. souls • 5. We should act lovingly and patiently and bless when we are cursed.

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.

² Ibid.