

Ahaziah

Notes for 7 Feb

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Read: [2 Kings 1](#)

The consequences of the breach of the Covenant

This week we begin the study of 2 Kings by analysing Chapter 1. Needless to say a few of the narrated events, some may find hard to take. In an attempt to head off the difficulty which this is likely to create, a difficulty which we have faced in 1 Kings, I would like us to examine the commonly held theologians' view of how Kings was added to the Canon of Scripture.

Secondly, before we study chapter 1 it may be helpful to present to you what are considered to be the themes of 2 Kings. It may be worth reflecting on these. Irrespective of some of the difficulties in attempting to reconcile what we consider to be our present, current values, with certain acts of Divine intervention, it is always helpful to consider what the author is driving at. I think studying a book when we understand the themes, is always more profitable. In the case of 2 Kings, it is probably necessary to do the author justice.

In the main, the historical timeline running through 2 Kings, the kings mentioned, and the towns and villages where events occurred, are largely borne out through other historical sources and recent archaeological digs.

Themes:

1. The Fulfilment of Covenant Curses.
2. The Sovereignty of God Over All Nations.
3. The Power and Authority of God's Word.
4. The Dangers of Idolatry.
5. The Tragic Consequences of leadership.
6. Divine Patience and Judgement.

2 Kings 1

Ahaziah is severely injured by falling through a window.

Instead of seeking Yaweh he sends messengers to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron. This appears to be a central breach of the Divine Covenant.

- Discuss.

A divine message comes to Elijah to intercept Ahaziah's messengers.

His message to them is unambiguous and brutal: "You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone, but you shall surely die."

This results in a contingent of 50 soldiers being sent to deal with Elijah.

- Discuss.

Elijah responds by calling down fire from heaven to consume them.

This also happens to a second contingent of 50 soldiers that followed.

- An over the top reaction? Discuss.

A third contingent is sent but their approach is different and they survive.

- Discuss.

In verses 16-18 Elijah goes down to King Ahaziah. Informs him in person what is going to happen and why!

- Discuss.