

Sermon: **Who is Your God? (2 Kings 1)**

Date: **January 6, 2019**

This week's study brings us to the Old Testament book of 2 Kings. The nation of Israel has been split into two kingdoms: the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel. In 2 Kings 1, Ahaziah the son of Ahab is reigning over the northern kingdom of Israel in Samaria. King Ahaziah "did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of his father," (1 Kings 22:52). He did not worship the LORD. Instead, he worshipped a false god. The consequences for this were very serious. God will not share his glory with another. As you study 2 Kings 1, ask yourself the following question: who is the first person or what is the first thing that you turn to in times of trouble? How you answer this question will reveal who or what you worship. Anything or anyone we might turn to in times of crisis, other than the one true God, is an idol. In this week's study, we will learn from the bad example of King Ahaziah. We will examine the consequences of idolatry and we will be reminded of how we ought to run to the LORD for help before we run to anything else.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

### **Individual Bible Study**

1. Please read 2 Kings 1 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
  - a. Describe the context of 2 Kings 1 (see 1 Kings 22).
  - b. Where is Ahaziah at the outset of this passage? Why is this significant?
  - c. When crisis hit, what was Ahaziah's response (v. 2b)? What does this reveal about Ahaziah?
  - d. Commenting on this text, Matthew Henry wrote, "*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 souls be it, than whether we shall recover from it.*" What should we be most concerned about in the midst of a crisis?
  - e. How does God respond to Ahaziah's inquiry (v. 3-4)? Is God's response gracious? Why or why not?
  - f. In verse 8, we learn that Ahaziah knew who Elijah was. He knew of the showdown between the LORD and Baal on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18), yet he still worshipped Baal. What does this teach us about the futility of idolatry?

- g. How does Ahaziah respond to Elijah's rebuke (v. 9)? Why does Ahaziah respond in this way?
- h. Instead of repenting after the LORD strikes down Ahaziah's men (v. 10), he continues to send more men to Elijah (v. 11-14). What does this teach us about the depravity of the human heart and the nature of repentance?
- i. How does the third captain respond differently than the first two (v. 13-14)? What was God's response to the third captain? What does this teach us about how we ought to approach the LORD?
- j. Ahaziah died for his rejection of the LORD and his idolatry (v. 17). What does this teach us about the holiness of God and the consequences of idolatry?

**Group Discussion Questions**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. What did King Ahaziah do to displease the LORD? How can trials be used to reveal idols of the heart? Give examples.
3. Why is idolatry such a serious offense against God? What are the consequences of idolatry?
4. Even though Ahaziah knew that Baal was powerless and that the LORD had defeated him, he still fled to this false god. Why are we tempted at times to run to worthless idols instead of to the one true God? How can we fight against this?
5. What can we do to remain faithful to God in the midst of trials? How can we cultivate hearts that instinctively turn toward God when trials hit?
6. Find a passage of Scripture that speaks of God's supremacy over all. Read these Scriptures together before breaking to accountability.