

Lesson 14 - 2 Kings 1:1-2:25**Introduction**

In 1:1-18 we see the brief rule of Ahaziah. Here the Lord reveals his power over false gods and their followers. Ahaziah, the son of the powerful Ahab, could not force the prophet Elijah to submit and ultimately dies from an injury he sustains at home.¹

In 2:1-25, Elijah's prophetic ministry ends with a divine escort from earth. Israel's real power at this time was not the unrighteous kings of Israel but the Lord working through his prophets. This story also confirms that the Lord chose Elisha to succeed Elijah.²

Study Questions

1. Why does God oppose Ahaziah? What did Ahaziah fail to do?
2. Why is the sin of idolatry so offensive to God?
3. What is it about Baal that might have appealed to Ahaziah? How might worldly ideas and values appeal to believers today?
4. How does the prophet Elijah continue to demonstrate God's power in 2 Kings 1?
5. Was God harsh in responding to the two captains and their men in chapter 1? Why or why not? What biblical insights do we need in order to understand this action of God?
6. Do the two scenes where Elijah and Elisha part the Jordan River remind you of any other biblical passages? Are these scenes important? Why?

Whole Bible Connections³

Crossing Over Parted Waters. In 2 Kings 2:8, Elijah strikes the Jordan River with his rolled-up cloak; the water parts, and he and Elisha pass over on dry ground. Elisha crosses back over by himself in the same way after Elijah's departure to heaven (2:14). This event recalls not only Moses' parting of the Red Sea in Exodus 14 but also Joshua's parting of the Jordan River in Joshua 3. The recapitulation of these miracles signals the transfer of authority from one leader to the next: as Joshua inherited the spiritual authority of Moses, so Elisha has inherited the prophetic mantle of Elijah.

¹ ZSB Study Notes pg. 655

² *ibid* pg. 656

³ Gavin Ortland - 1-2 Kings pg. 46

