



THE VISIBLE HAND
— OF THE INVISIBLE GOD —

PART EIGHT

Sermon Overview

Children watch what their parents do far more than what their parents say, and will follow their parent's path. At the end of 1 Kings, and start of 2 Kings, Ahab's son Ahaziah follows Ahab's example of living in idolatry, and is judged by God.

PART EIGHT

Children watch what their parents do far more than what their parents say, and will follow their parent's path. At the end of 1 Kings, and start of 2 Kings, Ahab's son Ahaziah follows Ahab's example of living in idolatry.

⁵¹ 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.

⁵² He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, because he walked in the ways of his father and mother and in the ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin.

⁵³ He served and worshiped Baal and provoked the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger, just as his father had done.

2 Kings 1:1 After Ahab's death, Moab rebelled against Israel.

² Now Ahaziah had fallen through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria and injured himself. So he sent messengers, saying to them, "Go and consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, to see if I will recover from this injury."

³ But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Go up and meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and ask them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going off to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?'"

⁴ Therefore this is what the Lord says: "You will not leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!" So Elijah went.

⁵ When the messengers returned to the king, he asked them, “Why have you come back?”

⁶ “A man came to meet us,” they replied. “And he said to us, ‘Go back to the king who sent you and tell him, “This is what the Lord says: Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending men to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!”’”

⁷ The king asked them, “What kind of man was it who came to meet you and told you this?”

⁸ They replied, “He was a man with a garment of hair and with a leather belt around his waist.” The king said, “That was Elijah the Tishbite.”

⁹ Then he sent to Elijah a captain with his company of fifty men. The captain went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, “Man of God, the king says, ‘Come down!’”

¹⁰ Elijah answered the captain, “If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!” Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his men.

¹¹ At this the king sent to Elijah another captain with his fifty men. The captain said to him, “Man of God, this is what the king says, ‘Come down at once!’”

¹² “If I am a man of God,” Elijah replied, “may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!” Then the fire of God fell from heaven and consumed him and his fifty men.

¹³ So the king sent a third captain with his fifty men. This third captain went up and fell on his knees before Elijah. “Man of God,” he begged, “please have respect for my life and the lives of these fifty men, your servants!

¹⁴ See, fire has fallen from heaven and consumed the first two captains and all their men. But now have respect for my life!”

¹⁵ The angel of the Lord said to Elijah, “Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.” So Elijah got up and went down with him to the king.

¹⁶ He told the king, “This is what the Lord says: Is it because there is no God in Israel for you to consult that you have sent messengers to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Because you have done this, you will never leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!”

¹⁷ So he died, according to the word of the Lord that Elijah had spoken. Because Ahaziah had no son, Joram succeeded him as king in the second year of Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah.

1 KINGS 22:51-53, 2 KINGS 1:1-17

DEMONIC REALITY

In his illness, Ahaziah seeks out Baal-Zebub, the lord of the flies, and pagan god of the future and fortune-telling. While our culture views fortune-tellers as nothing more than entertainment, Jesus acknowledged the demonic reality behind Baal-zebub in Matthew 12, a sobering reminder that this practice should be avoided by all Christians:

22 Then they brought him a demon possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.

23 All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.

26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?

MATTHEW 12:22-26

A LIVING REBUKE

Any believer living a godly life is a rebuke to a godless world. This rebuke will either be met with repentance, or anger.

The Lord sends Elijah to confront Ahaziah about his sin, handing down a death sentence from God. Familiar with Elijah from his father's dealings with him, Ahaziah responds not in repentance, but by sending men to kill Elijah.

The first two garrisons came in contempt and irreverence of Elijah and the God he served, and were consumed by fire as a result. Despite this, Ahaziah did not repent. He went to his death in

unrepentance, just as God said.

JUDGMENT AND REPENTANCE

The Apostle Paul tells us that the events of the Old Testament are a warning for Christians. They teach us what pleases the Lord, and what displeases Him.

God's judgment is not arbitrary, and only comes after several warnings. Ahaziah had the chance to repent but refused, deciding to follow his father Ahab. Jesus Christ offers us salvation and freedom from our sins if we repent and trust in His power.