

## Ahaziah's Attitude

2 Kings 1:1-18; Heb 12:28-29

Other times the LORD sent fire from heaven: 1 King 18:38; Lev 9:24; 1 Chr 21:26; 2 Chr 7:1; Gen 19:24; Num 11:1; Lev 10:2; Num 16:35.

- I. **IS THERE NO GOD IN ISRAEL?** (vs. 3, 6, 16)
  - A. **The evidence of worship is where you turn in crisis.** (2 Chr 16:12)
    1. **When we are sick, we *should* seek the LORD.**
    2. The world is **watching** what we will turn to in our time of need.
  - B. **The LORD is zealous to defend His reputation.** (Is 42:8)
    1. **Among His people**
    2. **Before the Nations** (Jer 22:8-9)
- II. **BE CAREFUL HOW YOU SPEAK TO A MAN OF GOD.** (vs. 9-15)
  - A. **The Authority of a Prophet** (Mat 5:11-12; Jn 15:18-20)—Servant of the LORD, Man of God
  - B. **The Command of a King** (9, 11)
    1. **Show of Force**—50 soldiers to get one prophet
    2. **Contempt for the Prophetic Office**—dislike, disrespect
    3. **No Fear of God**—as if *not real* or His *authority is inferior*
  - C. **The Vindication of God's Prophet** (9-12)—***"If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you!"***
    1. **Inviting God to decide the matter**—judicial miracle
      - a. **Demonstrates God's relevance and holiness**
      - b. **Defends the authority of God's prophet**
    2. **Reprimanding the insolent manner**
- III. **THE JOHN THE BAPTIST CONNECTION** (Mal 4:5-6; Mk 1:4-6; Mat 11:14 & 17:10-13; Lk 1:17)

**A. The Clothing of a Prophet** (v. 8; Mk 1:6; Mt 11:7-9)— garment of hair and leather belt

1. **Austere in the face of luxury** (Mt 11:8)—*challenge to the world's values*
2. **Illustrates the theme of repentance** (Is 22:12; Mt 5:3-4)

**B. The Character of a Prophet** (Mt 11:7)

1. **Lived in the Desert**

- Separated from the world, its values and distractions
- Illustrated the true spiritual condition of the nation

2. **Boldly Confronted Sin**—they refused to be intimidated.

**C. The Ministry of a Prophet** (Mt 11:11)—OT prepares for NT

1. **Warning of Judgment**
2. **Calling to Repentance**

#### **IV. Judgment and Mercy**

**A. Elijah Warns.**

1. **Death**—we will all die someday.
2. **Fire** (Lk 3:9, 17; Heb 10:27)—represents the complete destruction of the wicked (Hell)

**B. Jesus Rescues.** (Lk 9:54-55)

1. **Jesus brings us the mercy of God.**—not condemn but save
2. **Christians are called to be messengers of grace.**
3. **Christians need the mercy of God just as much as any other sinner does.**

**C. Salvation requires repentance.** (Mt 3:2; Mk 6:12; Act 2:38; 3:19; 17:30)

1. **Humility seeks and receives mercy.** (Jas 4:6, 10; Joel 2:32/Acts 2:21/ Rom 10:13).
2. **Defiance invites destruction.** (Mal 4:1; Ps 2:1-6)

Listen to “Lord, Have Mercy” (Robin Mark): <https://youtu.be/YJlbZrdyMXE>