

# 2 Kings 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

## Analysis

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**And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 1: Divine judgment on apostasy and affirmation of prophetic authority. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. During this period, Israel and Judah struggled with persistent idolatry, particularly Baal worship introduced under Ahab and Jezebel.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

## Historical Context

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**Historical Setting:** 2 Kings 1 takes place during the mid-9th century BCE, around 850 BCE, during the transition from Elijah to Elisha. The chapter's theme (Ahaziah's Illness and Elijah's Final Confrontations) reflects the historical reality of

prophetic succession and divine affirmation of Elisha's ministry following Elijah's remarkable translation. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 1 regarding divine judgment on apostasy and affirmation of prophetic authority?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

## Interlinear Text

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יאם חמשין ש ר אל יידבר אל הו תicut ה  
answered And Elijah and said H413 to the captain him and his fifty H518  
H6030 H452 H1696 H8269 H2572

בשָׁמָן יְמִינָה אֲשֶׁר מִן אֲשֶׁר  
If I be a man of God H589 And there came down fire H4480 from heaven H8064  
H376 H430 H3381 H784

וְתַאֲכַל וְתַאֲכַל אֶת אֶתךְ וְתַאֲכַל חמשין וְתַאֲכַל אֶת אֶתךְ  
and consume H853 H853 him and his fifty And there came down fire H4480  
H398 H2572 H3381 H784

חמשין וְתַאֲכַל אֶת אֶתךְ וְתַאֲכַל בָּשָׁמָן יְמִינָה  
from heaven and consume H853 H853 him and his fifty  
H8064 H398 H2572

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 9:54** (Parallel theme): And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

**Daniel 3:25** (References God): He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

**Hebrews 12:29** (References God): For our God is a consuming fire.

**Daniel 3:22** (Parallel theme): Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego.

**Revelation 11:5** (Parallel theme): And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

**Job 1:16** (References God): While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

**Acts 12:19** (Parallel theme): And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode.

**Psalms 105:15** (Parallel theme): Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

**Psalms 106:18** (Parallel theme): And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.

**Matthew 21:41** (Parallel theme): They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

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