

# 2 Kings 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.

## Analysis

**Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 1: Divine judgment on apostasy and affirmation of prophetic authority. 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

**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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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## 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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הִנֵּה	בָּאֵדָה	אֵשׁ	מִן	הַשְׁמִימָה	אֵת	לִתְאַכֵּל
H2009	<b>Behold there came</b>	<b>fire</b>	H4480	<b>from heaven</b>	<b>and burnt up</b>	H853
	H3381	H784		H8064		H398
וְעַפְתָּה	חֵמְשִׁים	מִן	וְאֶת	בְּרִאשָׁנִים	חֵמְשִׁים	וְעַפְתָּה
<b>the two</b>	<b>captains</b>	<b>fifties</b>		<b>of the former</b>	<b>fifties</b>	H6258
H8147	H8269	H2572		H7223		H2572
רְתִיקָה	נְפָשָׁה		בְּעִינֵיכֶם			
<b>now be precious</b>	<b>therefore let my life</b>		<b>in thy sight</b>			
H3365		H5315		H5869		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 20:24** (Parallel theme): But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

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