

# 2 Kings 1:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron, is it not because there is no God in Israel to enquire of his word? therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

## Analysis

**And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron, is it not because there is no God in Israel to enquire of his word? therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.**

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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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## 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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אָשָׁר יְיַהְוָה אָמַר יְהִי רְאִון  
And he said unto him Thus saith the LORD

זָבָב בְּבָב עַל לְדִרְשׁ מֶלֶאכִים  
Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to enquire of Baalzebub

אֲלֹהִים אֵין בְּמַבֵּל עַקְרָבִון  
is it not because there is no God of Ekron

אֲלֹהִים לְכָל בְּדִבָּר וּלְדִרְשׁ בַּיְשָׁרָא לְ  
is it not because there is no God in Israel to enquire of his word

אָשָׁר עַל יְתֵן לֹא שָׁם  
off that bed on which thou art gone up

תְּנַכֵּד כִּי מִמֶּנּוּ תְּמִימּוֹת  
therefore thou shalt not come down but shalt surely but shalt surely

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