

# 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

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**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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וַיֹּדֶבֶר	אֵלָיו	כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	עַל	אֲשֶׁר
And he said	H413	H3541	unto him Thus saith	the LORD	H3282	H834
H1696			H559	H3068		
שָׁלַח חֲתָנִי	מַלְאָכָיו	לְדָרֶשׁ	בְּבַעַל	זָבוּב		
Forasmuch as thou hast sent	messengers	to enquire	H0	of Baalzebub		
H7971	H4397	H1875		H1176		
אֱלֹהִים	אֵין	הַמִּבְּלָיָה	עֶקְרוֹן			
is it not because there is no God	of Ekron	H1097	H369			
H430	H6138					
אֱלֹהִים	לְכֹן	בְּדִבְרֵי	לְדָרֶשׁ	בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל		
is it not because there is no God	in Israel	to enquire	of his word			
H430	H3478	H1875	H1697			H3651
הַמִּטָּה	אֲשֶׁר	עַל יָתֵי	לֹא	שָׁמָּה		
off that bed	H834	on which thou art gone up	H8033	H3808		
H4296		H5927				
תֵּרֵד	כִּי	תִּמּוֹת:	תִּמּוֹת:			
therefore thou shalt not come down	H4480	H3588	but shalt surely			
H3381			H4191			H4191

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