

# 2 Kings 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

## Analysis

**And they said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from 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 reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. 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 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## 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

וַיֹּאמְרוּ	אִישׁ יָאֵל	אִישׁ	עַל יָת	לִקְרֹאתִי נָו			
And they said	H413	a man	on which thou art gone up	to meet			
H559		H376	H5927	H7125			
וַיֹּאמְרוּ	אֵלֵינוּ	לָכֵן וְ	שׁוּבוּ	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אֲשֶׁר	שִׁלַּח
And they said	H413	H1980	turn again	H413	unto the king	H834	that sent
H559			H7725		H4428		H7971
אֶתְכֶם	וְדִבַּרְתָּ	אֵל יָו	כֹּה	וַיֹּאמְרוּ	יְהוָה	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אֵין
H853	you and say	H413	H3541	And they said	the LORD	H1097	H369
	H1696			H559	H3068		
אֵלֶּה י				בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶת־	שִׁלַּח	לְדַרְשׁ
Is it not because there is not a God				in Israel	H859	that sent	to enquire
H430				H3478		H7971	H1875
בַּבַּעַל	זֶבֶב	אֵלֶּה י			עֶקְרוֹן	לִכֵּן	
H0	of Baalzebub	Is it not because there is not a God			of Ekron	H3651	
	H1176	H430			H6138		
הַמֶּטָּה	אֲשֶׁר	עַל יָת			לֹא		
from that bed	H834	on which thou art gone up			H8033	H3808	
H4296		H5927					
וְתֵרֵד				מִמֶּנָּה	כִּי	וְתֵמוּת:	וְתֵמוּת:
therefore thou shalt not come down				H4480	H3588	but shalt surely	but shalt surely
H3381						H4191	H4191

## Additional Cross-References

**Psalms 16:4** (References God): Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips.

