



8.18.2019
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“I AM” Is Not Chopped Liver • Part 1

Lesson 23 • 2Kings 1

What Is 2Kings 1-3 All About?

The Context 2Kings 1-3 helps us review what we have learned from our study of Elijah in 1Kings 17-22.

2Kings 1	2Kings 2	2Kings 3
What Have We Learned About the LORD Himself? He Is <u>TRUST</u>-Worthy!	What Have We Learned About the LORD's Prophet? He Is <u>LOYAL</u> but Not Sinless!	What Have We Learned About the LORD's Word? It Will <u>WIN</u> in the End!!
Elijah Confronts Ahab's Son, King Ahaziah, for DISHONORING the LORD	The TRANSLATION of Elijah and TRANSITION to Elisha	Elisha Confronts Ahab's Son, King Jehoram, for DISOBEYING the WORD
REMAIN LOYAL IN TIMES OF APOSTASY!		

The Set-Up King Ahaziah is an apostate just like his father, Ahab. **1Kings 22:51-53**

The Big Idea What did Ahab's son fail to learn about the LORD just like his father and mother?

I AM Is Not CHOPPED LIVER!

*The LORD is not to be **actively ignored** or **passively overlooked**, doing so is a matter of life and death!
But when we repent and humbly **seek Him**, He will let us **find Him** and grant us life!*

Four Reasons “I AM” Is Not Chopped Liver to Be Overlooked

1. “I AM” Is a JEALOUS God, *Who Despises Lifeless Idols.* (1-8)

- **WHO** does King Ahaziah seek when he is in great need? (2)

“Baal-zebul” means “**Lord of the Flies**” and may refer a god who was lord over sickness.

“Baal-zebul” might actually refer to “**Baal Is Lord**” because the Jewish people would change one letter to *Baal-zebul*.

Key Word = “**INQUIRE**” refers to the privilege and responsibility of those in covenant relationship with the LORD to seek the LORD! (2, 3, 6, 16)

Those who are loyal to the LORD and His covenant **SEEK Him before all others** by **FORSAKING all others** like we promise to do in our marriage covenant!

*“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. **If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.**” 1Chronicles 28:9*

- **HOW** does the LORD respond to being treated like “chopped liver”? (3-8)

- **WHY** does the LORD decree that the king must die? (3, 6, 16)

“Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebul, the god of Ekron?”

*“I AM” is not chopped liver for the LORD, whose NAME is JEALOUS, is a jealous God!
Exodus 34:12-16; Deuteronomy 4:23-24; Hebrews 12:28*

Is God Sinning by Being Jealous for His Own Glory and the Good of His People?

*No! It is the difference between a **bad husband** who is **jealous with sinful envy** and the **good husband** who is **zealous** for him and his wife to **remain loyal** to their marriage vows!*

2. “I AM” Is a JUST God, Who Defends His Sovereign Glory. (9-12)

One of the Difficult Wrath Passages in the Old Testament

Many see innocent people being slaughtered in an inhumane manner by an unloving God.

Why Is Fire Falling from Heaven a Just Act by God?

- Who is **RESPONSIBLE** for the fire from heaven?

The LORD – not Elijah – acts to declare His own sovereignty and defend His spoken Word.

- Who is to **BLAME** for the fire from heaven?

King Ahaziah is aggressively defending his own sovereignty over against the LORD, His Word, and His Mediator by declaring war.

- What was the **PURPOSE** of the fire from heaven?

The LORD is establishing that He Is the LORD whose Word rules over all in the end!

- 1) **PROVES** who is the true God and sovereign King. (1Kings 18:36-39)
- 2) **PUNISHES** those who rebel and refuse to repent. (1Kings 18:40)
- 3) **PROTECTS** His messenger from being unjustly arrested and murdered.
- 4) **PROCLAIMS** the severity of judgment and mercy of deliverance.

How DO We Know This Is a Proclamation of Both Judgment and Mercy?

Next week we will finish our study of the LORD's four divine attributes as revealed in this chapter.