



8.25.2019
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“I AM” Is Not Chopped Liver • Part 2

Lesson 24 • 2Kings 1

2Kings 1-3 Is a Reminder of What We Should Have Learned So Far from Studying Elijah

2Kings 1	2Kings 2	2Kings 3
We Have Learned that the LORD Is...	We Have Learned that the LORD's Prophet Is...	We Have Learned that the LORD's Word Will...
TRUST -Worthy!	LOYAL but Not Sinless!	WIN in the End!!
REMAIN LOYAL IN TIMES OF APOSTASY!		

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-zebub means “**Lord of the Flies**” which might refer to **Baal-zebu** which means “**Baal Is Lord.**”

POINT = The King of Israel seeks an outcome of life or death from a **no-god** among a **no-people** in **no-land!**

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)

*“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!

*“For out of Jerusalem will go forth **a remnant**, and out of Mount Zion **survivors**. **The zeal of the LORD will perform this.**” 2Kings 19:31*

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.

3. “I AM” Is a MERCIFUL God, Who Delights to Show Mercy to the Humble. (13-15)

Why Is the Third Captain and His Men Shown Mercy?

- Different **POSTURE** – *This Captain bows down to Elijah.*
- Different **PETITION** – *This Captain begs before Elijah for their lives.*
- Different **PURPOSE** – *This Captain addresses Elijah as a true Man of God and pleads for mercy.*

The LORD Is a Jealous God Who Is Both Just and Merciful.

*He deflates the proud who refuse to repent and delights to deliver the humble who repent.
He desires to show mercy in the midst of judgment.*

4. “I AM” Is a TRUST-WORTHY God, Who Delivers on His Sure Promises. (17-18)

The LORD Is a trust-worthy God – He delivers on His Word for judgment and for salvation.

Didn't Jesus Passionately Rebuke James and John for Wanting to Call Down Fire on the Samaritans in Luke 9:51-56?

The New Testament teaches that Jesus came first for salvation but will come again for judgment!

- There is a textual problem in vs. 55-56 but **the reason** Jesus rebuked them is clearly taught in other passages. *John 3:16-18; Luke 19:9-10*
- The Samaritans were rejecting the destination (Jerusalem) **versus** directly rejecting Jesus and His claims to be Yahweh and the Son of David!
- Even if they were directly rejecting Jesus, **Luke 9:5** reminds us that **now** is the time **for** shaking dust off our feet and **not** calling down fire.
- Jesus' first coming is the time for undeserved salvation and mercy **not** deserved judgment and wrath!
- It is not for us to determine the timing or degree of judgment, but for Yahweh alone, who has already revealed it in His spoken Word.
- Jesus and His apostles are very clear in the NT that such a Day of Fiery Judgment is coming and to repent before it's too late! *Hebrews 12:28-29; 2Thessalonians 1:6-10; Revelation 11:3-6; 19:11-16*

Is There Not a God in Kansas City This Morning?

Don't treat Him like He is chopped liver by neglecting to seek Him or seeking unworthy substitutes or seeking Him insincerely!

“I AM” Is Not Chopped Liver, So Choose Wisely for It Is a Matter of Life and Death!

Choose Today to Forsake All Others and Seek Him Above All Others While He May Be Found!

*“Seek the LORD that you may live, or He will break forth like a fire, O house of Joseph, and it will consume with none to quench it...” Amos 5:6
“Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:6-7*