

## ~AHAZIAH 1 (167)

(A-ha-zi'ah) [Yehowah Has Taken Hold]

The name of two kings, one of Israel, the other of Judah.

- Son of Ahab and Jezebel, and king of Israel for two years beginning in about 919 B.C.E. He followed his idolatrous parents in Baal worship.
- Upon the death of **Ahaziah's** father, Moab seized the opportunity to revolt and thereby free itself from the heavy tribute of 100,000 lambs and an equal number of male sheep with their wool.
- Josiah became father to Jeconiah and to his brothers at the time of the deportation to Babylon. (**Matthew 1:11**)
- This revolt is described by King Mesha of Moab in the Moabite Stone inscription. Perhaps due to his subsequent accident and early death, **Ahaziah** made no effort to subjugate the Moabites.
- **Ahaziah** did form a maritime alliance with Jehoshaphat of Judah for a shipbuilding enterprise at Ezion-geber on the Gulf of `Aqaba. The project was disapproved by God because of **Ahaziah's** wickedness, and the ships were wrecked.

The account at;

- Jehoshaphat, for his part, made Tarshish ships to go to Ophir for gold, but they did not go, because the ships were wrecked at Ezion-geber. (**1 Kings 22:48**)
- It was then that **Ahaziah** the son of Ahab said to Jehoshaphat: Let my servants go with your servants in the ships, but Jehoshaphat did not consent. (**1 Kings 22:49**)
- Shows that **Ahaziah** wanted Jehoshaphat's authorization for Israelite mariners to man the ships jointly with those of Judah, a request that Jehoshaphat refused. If this request was made prior to the wrecking of the ships, it may simply indicate Jehoshaphat's distrust of **Ahaziah** and caution against encroachment by the northern kingdom.

- If the request came after the failure of the fleet, it may have been an insinuation on **Ahaziah's** part that Jehoshaphat's men were lacking in ability and were responsible for the wreckage of the ships and hence the suggestion that the ships be refitted and sent out again with Israelite sailors also on board. In that case Jehoshaphat's refusal may have been in acknowledgment of God's manifest disapproval of the project.
- A house accident, in which the king fell through a grating, perhaps one covering a daylight shaft, in his roof chamber, left him bedridden and seriously ill.
- Then **Ahaziah** fell down through the grating in his roof chamber that was in Samaria and got sick. So he sent messengers and said to them; Go, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall revive from this sickness. (2 Kings 1:2)
- As if the true God no longer existed, **Ahaziah** sent messengers to inquire of the Philistine god Baal-zebub, meaning, **Owner of the Flies**, as to his prospects of recovery.
- Intercepted by the prophet Elijah, the messengers turned back and delivered the message to the king that his sickbed would become his deathbed. Instead of humbling himself, **Ahaziah** sent a force of 50 men under their captain to bring Elijah in to him. That force and a second one, after giving Elijah the king's order to come down from the mountain where he was sitting, were both destroyed by fire. A third force sent by the stubborn king escaped only by virtue of the captains' respectful plea that he and his men's lives be precious in Elijah's eyes.
- Elijah thereafter descended and delivered the death message to **Ahaziah's** face. **Ahaziah** gradually died and, being sonless, was succeeded by his brother Jehoram.
- Then **Ahaziah** fell down through the grating in his roof chamber that was in Samaria and got sick. So he sent messengers and said to them; Go, inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether I shall revive from this sickness. (2 Kings 1:2)
- As for the angel of Yehowah, he spoke to Elijah the Tishbite; Rise up, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and say to them; Is it because there is no God at all in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? (2 Kings 1:3)

- **So therefore this is what Yehowah has said; As regards the couch upon which you have gone up, you will not come down off it, because you will positively die. With that Elijah went off. (2 Kings 1:4)**
- **When the messengers came back to him, he immediately said to them; Why is it that you have come back? (2 Kings 1:5)**
- **So they said to him; There was a man that came up to meet us, and he proceeded to say to us; Go, return to the king who sent you, and you must speak to him; This is what Yehowah has said; Is it because there is no God at all in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? Therefore, as regards the couch upon which you have gone up, you will not come down off it, because you will positively die. (2 Kings 1:6)**
- **At this he spoke to them; What was the appearance of the man that came up to meet you and then spoke these words to you? (2 Kings 1:7)**
- **So they said to him; A man possessing a hair garment, with a leather belt girded about his loins. Immediately he said, It was Elijah the Tishbite. (2 Kings 1:8)**
- **And he proceeded to send to him a chief of fifty with his fifty. When he went up to him, there he was sitting upon the top of the mountain. He now spoke to him; Man of the true God, the king himself has spoken; Do come down. (2 Kings 1:9)**
- **But Elijah answered and spoke to the chief of the fifty; Well, if I am a man of God, let fire come down from the heavens and eat up you and your fifty. And fire came descending from the heavens and went eating up him and his fifty. (2 Kings 1:10)**
- **So he sent again to him another chief of fifty with his fifty. In turn he answered and spoke to him; Man of the true God, this is what the king has said; Do come down quickly. (2 Kings 1:11)**
- **But Elijah answered and spoke to them; If I am a man of the true God, let fire come down from the heavens and eat up you and your fifty. And fire of God came descending from the heavens and went eating up him and his fifty. (2 Kings 1:12)**

- **And he went sending again a third chief of fifty and his fifty. But the third chief of fifty went up and came and bent down upon his knees in front of Elijah and began to implore favor of him and speak to him; Man of the true God, please let my soul and the soul of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your eyes. (2 Kings 1:13)**
- **Here fire came down from the heavens and went eating up the two former chiefs of fifty and their fifties, but now let my soul be precious in your eyes. (2 Kings 1:14)**
- **At that the angel of Yehowah spoke to Elijah; Go down with him. Do not be afraid because of him. So he rose and went down with him to the king. (2 Kings 1:15)**
- **Then he spoke to him; This is what Yehowah has said; For the reason that you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron, is it because there is no God at all in Israel of whose word to inquire? Therefore as regards the couch upon which you have gone up, you will not come down off it, because you will positively die. (2 Kings 1:16)**
- **And he gradually died, according to the word of Yehowah that Elijah had spoken. Jehoram began to reign in place of him, in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, because he had not come to have a son. (2 Kings 1:17)**