

~BAAL-ZEBUB (71)

(Ba'al-ze'bub) [Owner of the Flies]

- The **Baal** worshiped by the Philistines at Ekron. There are indications that it was a common practice among the Hebrews to change the names of false gods to something similar but degrading. Hence, the ending **zebub** may be an alteration of one of the titles of **Baal** shown in the Ras Shamra texts as **Zebul**, or Prince.
- Some scholars, however, suggest that the name was given to the god by his worshipers because of his being viewed as the producer of flies and therefore able to control this common pest of the Middle East. Since the giving of oracles was associated with **Baal-zebub**, others favor the view that **Baal-zebub** was a god who was regarded as giving oracles by the flight or buzzing of a fly.
- 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)
- Ahaziah the king of Israel sent messengers to inquire of **Baal-zebub** as to whether he would recover from his serious injury or not. Through his prophet Elijah, Yehowah rebuked Ahaziah, saying; 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.
- 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**)

See Also BEELZEBUB