

The unstoppable word

(1 Kings 22 - 2 Kings 2)

The prophet who refused to scratch where they itched (1 Kings 22:1-50)

“For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.” (2 Timothy 4:3)

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| “Shall I go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?” (v6) | “Shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or not?” (v15) |
| The many prophets promise victory | Micaiah promises terrible defeat |
| FALSE | TRUE |

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| Would <i>like</i> to be true | True |
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Deep down perhaps we know what is true but...

- 1) we gather a crowd
- 2) we avoid those who will challenge us
 - or pressurise them to conform
 - or persecute them
- 3) we ignore the spiritual realities
- 4) we try a halfway house (cf. Ahab's disguise)

The prophet who couldn't be stopped (1 Kings 22:51 – 2 Kings 1:18)

Ahaziah does evil and serves Baal (22:52-53) and when injured, looks to Baal-zebub (2 Kings 1:2)

Elijah is told to **go up** and say:

“...You shall not **come down** from the bed to which you have **gone up**, but you shall surely die” (v3-4)

The king's messengers report that a man **came up** and said:

“...You shall not **come down** from the bed to which you have **gone up**, but you shall surely die” (v5-6)

Ahaziah realises that the camel's-hair-clothed man was Elijah (vv7-8)!

A captain **went up** and said to Elijah:

“O man of God ... **come down!**” (v9)

But Elijah answered

“Let fire **come down!**”

⇒ fire **came down** (v10)

A second captain was sent to say to Elijah:

“O man of God ... **come down!**” (v11)

But Elijah answered

“Let fire **come down!**”

⇒ fire **came down** (v12)

A third captain **went up** and pleaded with Elijah:

“Please don't let fire **come down!**” (vv13-14)

And the angel of the LORD told Elijah

“It's safe to **go down**”

⇒ *Elijah* **went down** (v15)

Elijah says to the king

“You shall not **come down** from the bed to which you have **gone up**, but you shall surely die” (v16)

⇒ he died according to the word of the LORD (v17)

A bald men who sent bears at Bethel (2 Kings 2:23-25)

What did you expect from an assassin (1 Kings 19:17)?

Yet he also saves?!