

Elijah - 5 (King & Ambassador Conflicts)

I. Introduction.

- A. With whom do you have the most conflict, and why?

- B. If God commanded it, would you confront a king of his sin/idolatry?

- C. Who is your highest authority (e.g. God, government, parents, boss, pleasure...)?

II. Scripture.

A. Elijah's (**2Ki. 1:1-18**).

1. **2Ki. 1:1-4**—Title:

"¹Then Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab. ²And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, 'Go, enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease.' ³But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, 'Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? ⁴Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.' And Elijah departed."

2. **2Ki. 1:5-8**—Title:

"⁵And when the messengers turned back unto him, he said unto them, 'Why are ye now turned back?' ⁶And they said unto him, 'There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? Therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.' ⁷And he said unto them, 'What manner of man was he which came up to meet you, and told you these words?' ⁸And they

answered him, 'He was a hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins.' And he said, 'It is Elijah the Tishbite.' "

3. **2Ki. 1:9-12**—Title:

"⁹Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down. ¹⁰And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. ¹¹Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly. ¹²And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty."

4. **2Ki. 1:13-18**—Title:

"¹³And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, 'O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. ¹⁴Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.' ¹⁵And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, 'Go down with him: be not afraid of him.' And he arose, and went down with him unto the king. ¹⁶And he said unto him, 'Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron, is it not because there is no God in Israel to enquire of his word? Therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.' ¹⁷So he died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram reigned in his stead in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah; because he had no son. ¹⁸Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah

which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?"

III. Application.

A. If God sent you with His Word to rebuke and predict a king's death to his royal and military ambassadors, and the king himself, would you still forcefully deliver God's message?

B. When sick, hurt, or in need, what do you turn to for info or help?

C. Are you or we more "***ambassadors for Christ***" (***2Co. 5:20***) or for ourselves?

D. My son recommended the lesson title to be "***The King vs a king.***" Who is your highest king, and why?