

SERIES: LIFE IS HARD, AND THEN YOU LIVE!

#1779: Power For Living.

Where do we look to find confidence for the future?

9/22/2024 Pastor Tony

NLT=New Living Translation, ESV=English Standard.

One day Israel's new king, Ahaziah, fell through the latticework of an upper room at his palace in Samaria and was seriously injured. So he sent messengers to the temple of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, to ask whether he would recover. But the angel of the LORD told Elijah, who was from Tishbe, "Go and confront the messengers of the king of Samaria and ask them, 'Is there no God in Israel? Why are you going to Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, to ask whether the king will recover? Now, therefore, this is what the LORD says: You will never leave the bed you are lying on; you will surely die.' " So Elijah went to deliver the message. — 2 Kings 1:2–4 (NLT)

Ahaziah son of Ahab began to rule over Israel in the seventeenth year of King Jehoshaphat's reign in Judah. He reigned in Samaria two years. But he did what was evil in the Lord's sight, following the example of his father and mother and the example of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had led Israel to sin. He served Baal and worshiped him, provoking the anger of the Lord, the God of Israel, just as his father had done. — 1 Kings 22:51–53 (NLT)

Where to Find Confidence About the Future

1. Fear Not for Your Future: Seek God.

"Go and confront the messengers of the king of Samaria and ask them, 'Is there no God in Israel? Why are you going to Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, to ask whether the king will recover? Now, therefore, this is what the LORD says: You will never leave the bed you are lying on; you will surely die.' " So Elijah went to deliver the message. — 2 Kings 1:3–4 (NLT)

2. Find Your Future: Listen to God's Word.

Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty men with his fifty. He went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, "O man of God, the king says, 'Come down.' "

— 2 Kings 1:9 (ESV)

But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty."

Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

— 2 Kings 1:10 (ESV)

The Rest of the Story: 2 Kings 1:11-15 (ESV)

3. Focus on Your Future: Trust God.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

— Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

For we live by faith, not by sight.

— 2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV)