



2 Kings 1: Pray for the Unsaved

*Gathering all generations
to pray for all nations
ASKing God to do what only He can do
and doing whatever He ASKs of us.*

*God's Word softens your heart
towards those who do not know Him.*

If you have not already worked through the Basic Lessons, also found under Teaching Resources, it is recommended you do so, in order to get the most out of this and the other teaching lessons.

Suggestion: Read the lesson first, then go through the Scriptures asking the Holy Spirit to show you when to stop and meditate. What you receive will be the basis for your prayers. Group: Take a brief time for each to share what they received. When you pray, add on to each other's prayers until all have a change to pray. Pray through everything that is received.

Preparing your heart to pray

You can take a specific quiet time, ask God to search your heart for any known sin, any hindrance to prayer OR as you praise and worship and/or meditate in the Word, **as you are open to the Holy Spirit, He will bring to mind anything you need to deal with.**

Context:

The injured king of Israel sends soldiers to inquire of the local pagan god, Baal-Zebub, the Lord of the Flies, a name for Satan, if he will recover. This is Ahab and Jezebel's son, now king over the northern ten tribes. His idolatry is challenged by Elijah, the prophet who sends a message to the king that he will die because he did not come to the God of Israel for healing.

Kings have great influence over those they rule and great accountability to God for this reason. Then the king sends a company of 51 soldiers to seize Elijah. When the soldiers command Elijah to come down, he calls down the fire of God and they are killed.

The second group of soldiers dies the same way; now there are 102 soldiers dead. The king sends a third company and the officer in charge pleads for his life and the life of his men.

2 Kings 1:1-13 shows God's heart

"Man of God, please let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight."

Response — Intercessors are called by God to represent Him in prayer. Each life is created by God having purpose and plan; each life needs to be **precious in your sight.**

v14 The captain repeats his plea, "Look, fire has come down from heaven and burned up the first two captains of fifties with their fifties. But let my life now be precious in your sight." Can you see life, even that of an enemy as precious in God's sight?

v15 “And the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, ‘Go down with him; Do not be afraid of him.’ So Elijah arose and went down with them to the king.”

Context: Remember God is just in all His ways. Always look at the text in context. This is not like Jesus rebuking James and John for wanting to call down fire from heaven and kill the Samaritans who would not receive them in Luke 9:54. This was judgment on an evil king not looking to Jehovah for healing, but looking to a pagan god, the demonic realm. Baal-Zebub was the Canaanite Baal, false god worshipped at Philistine Ekron. This was the god that Jezebel worshipped. Both the scribes and Jesus identified this god as the ruler of demons, Satan, in Mark 3:22,23.

Ahab’s son sent soldiers to arrest Elijah, not just talk to him. He knew what Elijah had done to those who worshipped false gods and to his mother, Jezebel. 1Kings 18:19:40 tells of Elijah’s victory over the false prophets who ate at Jezebel’s table.

Response: ASK God for His heart to pray for the unsaved. Let this Word challenge you and soften your heart. Your response will touch others in the Body of Christ.

Other Scriptures: ASK God for wisdom and the fear of the Lord for leaders.

Deuteronomy 17:18 -20 says kings shall make a copy of God’s Word, read it and learn to fear God so his heart be not lifted up and he turn from the commandments.

Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Proverbs14:34 “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people,”

Proverbs 21:1 “The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water, He turns it wherever He wishes.”