

Reign of King Ahaziah

2 Kings 1:2-8

Old
Testament
Story Time

King Ahaziah was the son of the wicked King Ahab and his evil wife, Queen Jezebel. When Ahaziah was made King of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, he followed in his father's bad example by worshiping false gods.

One day King Ahaziah was in a horrible accident. Ahaziah was walking on the terrace of his roof when he fell through. King Ahaziah injured himself very badly. He was worried and wanted to know if he would heal, so he sent some of his messengers to ask the god Baalzebub if he would recover or not. Now Baalzebub was not a real god. In fact, Baalzebub was a powerful demon. It was against the laws of the Lord God to consult idols and false gods, so what King Ahaziah was doing was very bad.

Now living in the Northern Kingdom of Israel was also a great prophet of the Lord God named Elijah the Tishbite. When King Ahaziah was doing this wicked deed, the Lord sent Elijah to meet Ahaziah's messengers and give them a message. Elijah told them to return to the king and scold him for turning to a false god and not consulting the one true Lord God.

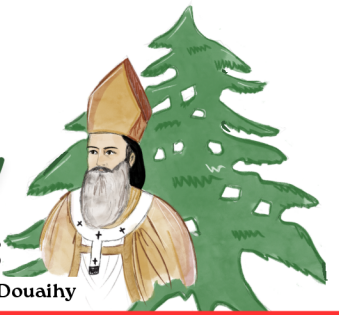
When the king's messengers returned to King Ahaziah they found him lying in bed from his injuries. They passed along the following message to him from the prophet Elijah:

"The LORD says: Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baalzebub, the god of Ekron? For this you shall not leave the bed upon which you lie; instead, you shall die."



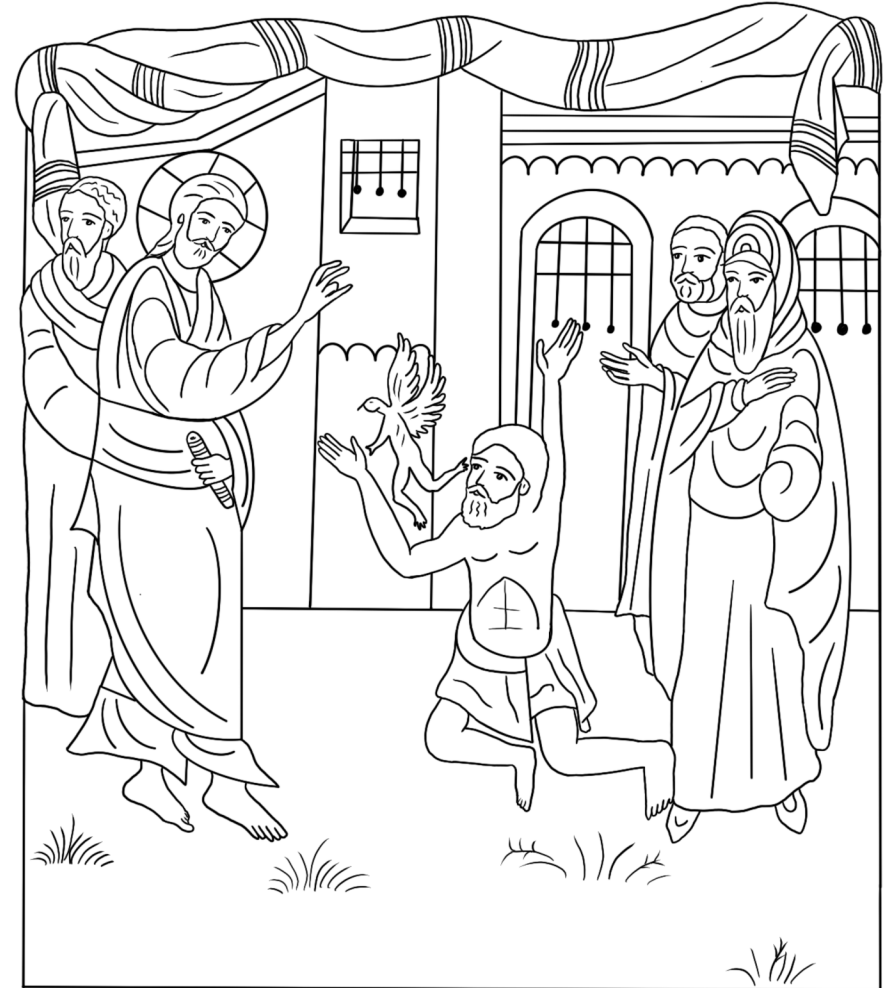
King Ahaziah sinned against the Lord God. Because he did not trust the Lord, and committed a grave sin by turning toward a false god, he had to suffer the consequences.

Cedar Kids



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

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"Whoever is not with me
is against me,
and whoever does not gather
with me scatters."

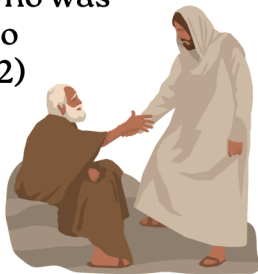




Gospel Corner

Matthew
12:22-32

“Then they brought to [Jesus] a demoniac who was blind and mute. He cured the mute person so that he could speak and see.” (Matthew 12:22)



Today’s Gospel story shows us four things about Jesus.

1. Jesus’ *compassion*. Jesus recognizes the suffering the demoniac man is enduring. Jesus is then moved with pity and is motivated to take action to relieve the person of his suffering.

2. Jesus’ *omnipotence*. Do you remember what “omnipotent” means? It means “all-powerful.” Jesus is God. He is the second Person of the Trinity. Because Jesus is God, He is omnipotent.

Jesus can do anything that He wills. In today’s Gospel, when a demoniac was brought to Him, Jesus healed Him. The demon left and the man was able to speak and see again.

3. Jesus’ *authority*. This miracle shows us Jesus’ omnipotence, but it also shows us His authority. When Jesus speaks, even demons flee because they know He is in charge. The devil cannot do anything without God’s permission.

4. Jesus’ *patience*. In this story, we also see Jesus’ patience when tested. The Pharisees did not want the Jewish people to think that Jesus was the promised Messiah, so they falsely accused Him of being not from Heaven, but from the devil.

Jesus calmly and rationally pointed out the problem with their accusation. If He was actually from the devil, why would He be casting out demons who come from the devil? Therefore, He must be from Heaven!

Did you know?

PATIENCE

The word “patience” comes from the Latin “*patientia*,” meaning “suffering” or “endurance.”

The virtue of patience is the ability to endure difficulty, delay, or suffering without becoming upset or anxious. It does not mean there is a lack of suffering, but rather the ability to remain calm, composed, and steadfast in the face of challenges.

What you can do

With a new school year beginning, decide to be kind and loving to all the other students and teachers this year.

Pray to have patience like Jesus. When people are unkind to you, try to respond in a patient, compassionate and loving way.

Love Your Emenies

Is there someone in your life who you have a hard time being kind to? Do you act like a Pharisee when you are around them and try to get them in trouble? Jesus tells us to love our enemies. On the lines below, write three ways that you can be kind to this person. Then draw a picture of how it feels to be kind in the picture frame.

