

## June 29 Answers

- 1) When Ahaziah was injured, he sent messengers to Baal-Zebub to ask whether he would recover. In response, God asked him a question: “Is it because there is no **God** in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?” (2 Kgs 1:3). This teaches us that God wants everyone, even **sinners**, to **come** to Him in times of trouble. Indeed, God often uses **misfortune** to get our attention and call us to repentance. God proved Himself to Ahaziah, desiring his **repentance**, but Ahaziah **hardened** his heart and refused to repent (2 Kgs 1:16). When Elijah gave Elisha permission to remain behind, he was **testing** Elisha’s **commitment** to himself and to his **calling** as Elijah’s successor (cf. Gen 22; John 21:15–25). Note that in each place where Elijah offered Elisha a chance to turn back, God validated Elisha’s ministry with a miracle: crossing the **Jordan** on dry land, healing the waters of **Jericho**, and rebuking the youth of **Bethel**. This story teaches us that God’s power is not tied to a particular **era** or limited to a certain **person**. God is always with those who are with him (cf. Josh 1:5–6).