

# 1 Kings 11:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For it came to pass, when David was in Edom, and Joab the captain of the host was gone up to bury the slain, after he had smitten every male in Edom;

## Analysis

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**For it came to pass, when David was in Edom, and Joab the captain of the host was gone up to bury the slain, after he had smitten every male in Edom;**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Solomon's apostasy and death, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy.

The Hebrew text reveals nuances important for understanding this passage's contribution to 1 Kings' theological message about kingship, covenant, and faithfulness to Yahweh. This verse demonstrates the consequences when God's people—especially their leaders—either follow or forsake the covenant established at Sinai.

## Historical Context

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First Kings was written during or after the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE), reflecting on the monarchy period (10th-9th centuries BCE) to explain why the kingdoms fell. Solomon's reign (c. 970-930 BCE) represented Israel's golden age of peace and prosperity.

Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideology viewed kings as divine representatives

responsible for maintaining cosmic order through right worship. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Megiddo, Hazor, and Samaria confirm the historical reliability of 1 Kings' descriptions of building projects and administrative structures.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How did Solomon's disobedience to God's clear commands lead to his downfall, and what warnings does this provide?
2. What role do relationships and alliances play in either strengthening or compromising our faith?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּהִיּוֹת וַיָּהִי י'	דָּוִד	אֶת בְּאֶדְוֹם:	בָּעַל וְהָיָה
H1961	H1961	H854	H5927
	For it came to pass when David	in Edom	was gone up
	H1732	H123	
וַיֹּאבֵד	שָׂר צָבָא	לְקַבֵּר ר' אֶת הַחֵלָּלִים	
H3097	H8269	H6635	H6912
and Joab	the captain	of the host	to bury
			H853
			the slain
			H2491
וַיִּהְיֶה	כָּל זָכָר	בְּאֶדְוֹם:	
H5221	H3605	H2145	H123
after he had smitten	every male	in Edom	

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 8:14** (References David): And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all they of Edom became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

**Deuteronomy 20:13** (Parallel theme): And when the LORD thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword:

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