

# 1 Kings 11:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And God stirred him up another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah:

## Analysis

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**And God stirred him up another adversary, Rezon the son of Eliadah, which fled from his lord Hadadezer king of Zobah:**

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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שָׁאַלְתִּי יְהֹוָה וְלֹא־שָׁאַלְתִּי כִּי־  
stirred him up And God H0 another adversary H853 Rezon the son  
H6965 H430 H7854 H853 H7331 H1121

צָוָא הַמֶּלֶךְ פָּזְדֵּעַ זֶרֶם מֶלֶךְ הַזּוֹבָח  
of Eliadah which fled H834 H1272 H853 Hadadezer king of Zobah  
H450 H1909 H4428 H6678

אֶלְמָנִים:  
from his lord  
H113

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 11:14** (Kingdom): And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon, Hadad the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom.

**2 Samuel 8:3** (Kingdom): David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates.

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