

# 1 Kings 13:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back:

## Analysis

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**And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came unto the prophet that brought him back:**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of the man of god from judah, within the book's focus on spiritual decline of both kingdoms under various rulers. The prophetic office represents God's faithful witness even in apostasy, calling His people back to covenant faithfulness.

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. This period (c. 930-850 BCE) saw rapid succession and instability, especially in the northern kingdom.

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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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage illustrate the importance of complete obedience to God's word without compromise?
2. What does Elijah's ministry reveal about God's character and His commitment to His covenant people?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיָשַׁבּוּ יְמִינְךָ | אֶלְךָ פָּאֵלָת | תְּהִלָּתְךָ  
H1961 H1992 **And it came to pass as they sat** H413 **at the table** H1961  
H3427

דְּבָרֶךָ יְהִי הָאָלָה | אֶלְךָ יָבֹבְךָ | אֲשֶׁר  
that the word of the LORD H413 **came unto the prophet** H834  
H1697 H3068 H5030

הַשִּׁיבוֹן:  
**that brought him back**  
H7725