

# 1 Kings 13:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:

## Analysis

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**And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:**

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 temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

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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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is 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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וַיֹּאמֶר	אִישׁ	הָאֱלֹהִים	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אִם	תִּתֵּן
said	And the man	of God	H413	unto the king	H518	If thou wilt give
H559	H376	H430		H4428		H5414
לִי	אֶת	חֲצִי	בֵּית	לֹא	אֶבֹּא	עִמָּךְ
H0	H853	me half	thine house	H3808	I will not go in	H5973
		H2677	H1004		H935	H3808
אֶכְלֶךָ		לֶחֶם	וְלֹא	אֶשְׁתֶּה	מַיִם	בַּמָּקוֹם
with thee neither will I eat		bread	H3808	nor drink	water	in this place
H398		H3899		H8354	H4325	H4725
הִנֵּה:						
H2088						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 24:13** (Parallel theme): If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the LORD saith, that will I speak?

**Numbers 22:18** (References God): And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

**Mark 6:23** (Kingdom): And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom.

**Mark 6:11** (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

**Exodus 5:6** (Parallel theme): And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmasters of the people, and their officers, saying,

**Exodus 7:2** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land.

**Exodus 5:3** (References God): And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword.

**2 Kings 5:16** (Parallel theme): But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused.

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