

# 1 Kings 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger.

## Analysis

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**For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves, provoking the LORD to anger.**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Jeroboam's judgment and Rehoboam's reign, within the book's focus on spiritual decline of both kingdoms under various rulers.

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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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## 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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הַקֶּנֶה יִנּוּד כָּאֵשׁ רַ יִשְׁכָּא ל אֶת יְהוָה: יִהְיֶה הַיֵּהָה  
shall smite For the LORD H853 Israel H834 is shaken as a reed  
H5221 H3068 H3478 H5110 H7070

הָאֶדְמָה הַיָּעַל יִשְׁכָּא ל אֶת וְנִתְּשׁ וּבַמַּיִם  
in the water and he shall root up H853 Israel H5921 land  
H4325 H5428 H3478 H127

לְאָב וְתִיָּהֶם נָתַן אֵשׁ רַ הַזֹּאת הַטּוֹב הַ  
out of this good H2063 H834 which he gave to their fathers  
H5414 H1

עָשׂוּ אֵשׁ רַ יָּעַן לְנֹהַר מֵעַבְרָה וְזָרְחַם  
and shall scatter them beyond the river H3282 H834 because they have made  
H2219 H5676 H5104 H6213

יְהוָה: אֶת מַכְעִיסֵי יָם אֵשׁ רִיָּהֶם אֶת  
H853 their groves H842 to anger H853 For the LORD  
H3068 H3707

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 52:5** (Parallel theme): God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah.

**2 Kings 15:29** (Kingdom): In the days of Pekah king of Israel came Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and took Ijon, and Abel-beth-maachah, and Janoah, and Kedesh, and Hazor, and Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and carried them captive to Assyria.

**Proverbs 2:22** (Parallel theme): But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.