

# 1 Kings 15:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.

## Analysis

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**And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of kings of Judah and Israel: Abijah, Asa, Nadab, Baasha, 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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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

## 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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וַיֵּבֶר	הַקְּדָשִׁים	מִן	הָאֶרֶץ	וַיִּסֶר	אֶת	כָּל
And he took away	the sodomites	H4480	out of the land	and removed	H853	H3605
H5674	H6945		H776	H5493		
הַגִּלְגָּלִים	אֲשֶׁר	עָשׂוּ	אֲבוֹתָיו:			
all the idols	H834	had made	that his fathers			
H1544		H6213	H1			

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 22:46** (Parallel theme): And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land.

**1 Peter 1:18** (Parallel theme): Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

**Jude 1:7** (Parallel theme): Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

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