

# 1 Kings 15:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron.

## Analysis

**And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron.**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of kings of Judah and Israel: Abijam, 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

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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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## 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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מִגְבֵּבַת הָאִתְּגָּמָל  
H1571 H853 And also Maachah his mother even her he removed from being queen  
H4601 H517 H5493 H1377

אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂת הָעֲשָׂת הַמִּפְלָצָת הַלְּאַשְׁר תִּיכְרֹת אֶת אָסָא  
H834 because she had made H6213 H4656 H842 H3772 H609 H853  
an idol and burnt it by the brook Kidron

בָּנְכֶל יִשְׂרָאֵל מִפְלָצָת הַקִּדְרוֹן  
H4656 H8313 H5158 H6939

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 32:20** (Creation): And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

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