

# 1 Kings 16:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died,

## Analysis

**And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died,**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of kings of Israel: Elah, Zimri, Omri, Ahab, 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

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

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## 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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רָא	וְתֵּה	כִּי	זִמְרִי	כִּי	נִלְקַח	הַ	בָּעֵד	יְרֵא
H1961	<b>saw</b>		<b>And it came to pass when Zimri</b>	H3588	<b>was taken</b>		<b>that the city</b>	
	H7200		H2174		H3920		H5892	
אֲתָה	עָלָיו	וְ	יָבַא	מִלְּרַב	וְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֲתָה	עָלָיו
<b>that he went</b>	H413	<b>into the palace</b>	H759	<b>house</b>	H1004	<b>of the king's</b>	H4428	<b>and burnt</b>
H935							H8313	H853
בֵּית	לְגֹזֶל	מִלְּרַב	בְּאֵשׁ	לִימְתָּה				
<b>house</b>	<b>of the king's</b>	<b>over him with fire</b>	<b>and died</b>					
H1004	H4428	H784	H4191					

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 17:23** (Parallel theme): And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.

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