

# 1 Kings 16:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Forasmuch as I exalted thee out of the dust, and made thee prince over my people Israel; and thou hast walked in the way of Jeroboam, and hast made my people Israel to sin, to provoke me to anger with their sins;

## Analysis

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**Forasmuch as I exalted thee out of the dust, and made thee prince over my people Israel; and thou hast walked in the way of Jeroboam, and hast made my people Israel to sin, to provoke me to anger with their sins;**

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 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

**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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אֲשֶׁר יָעַן H3282	הָרִימֹתִי יָךְ H834	מִן H4480	הָעָפָר H6083	וַאֲתָנֶךְ H5414
	Forasmuch as I exalted		thee out of the dust	and made
נָגִיד H5057	עַל H5921	עַמִּי H5971	יִשְׂרָאֵל H3478	וּבַדֶּרֶךְ H1870
thee prince		and hast made my people	Israel	in the way
יֵרֵבֶעַם H3379	וַתַּחֲטֵא H2398	אֶת H853	עַמִּי H5971	יִשְׂרָאֵל H3478
of Jeroboam	to sin		and hast made my people	Israel
לְהַכְעִיסֵנִי H3707	בְּחַטָּאתָם: H2403			
to provoke me to anger	with their sins			

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 15:34** (Creation): And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.

**1 Kings 14:7** (Creation): Go, tell Jeroboam, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel,

**1 Samuel 2:8** (Parallel theme): He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them.