

# 1 Kings 16:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then were the people of Israel divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king; and half followed Omri.

## Analysis

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**Then were the people of Israel divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king; and half followed Omri.**

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

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

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

**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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זָאָז	וַיִּחַלֵּק	הָעָם	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְהָחֹצֵי	וְהָחֹצֵי
H227	<b>divided</b>	<b>Then were the people</b>	<b>of Israel</b>	<b>and half</b>	<b>and half</b>
	H2505	H5971	H3478	H2677	H2677
	הָעָם	הָיָה	אָחֳרָי	תִּבְנִי	בֶן
	<b>Then were the people</b>	<b>followed</b>	<b>followed</b>	<b>Tibni</b>	<b>the son</b>
	H5971	H1961	H310	H8402	H1121
	לְהַמְלִיכֹו	וְהָחֹצֵי	אָחֳרָי	עֹמְרִי	
	<b>to make him king</b>	<b>and half</b>	<b>followed</b>	<b>Omri</b>	
	H4427	H2677	H310	H6018	

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