

# 1 Kings 17:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

## Analysis

**And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Elijah and the drought, within the book's focus on prophetic ministry of Elijah confronting Baalism.

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. Elijah's ministry (c. 860-850 BCE) occurred during Ahab's reign, a time of intense spiritual crisis in Israel.

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

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

## James 2:17 — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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

תִּקְרַב אַפְּצָמָת יְמֵנֶיךָ שֶׁל שָׁמֶן לְתִמְדֵּךְ דָּעַל כִּי לְדָעַת H5921 I pray thee let this child's three times and cried H7121  
And he stretched H4058 H3206 H7969 H6471 H7121

לְךָ תְּבִרְכֵנִי  
בְּנֵי הָעֵדָה  
בְּנֵי עַלְמָה  
בְּנֵי קָרְבָּן

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 20:10** (Parallel theme): And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

**Acts 9:40** (Prayer): But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

**Hebrews 11:19** (References God): Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

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