

# 1 Kings 18:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

## Analysis

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**And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Elijah and the prophets of Baal, within the book's focus on prophetic ministry of Elijah confronting Baalism. The prophetic office represents God's faithful witness even in apostasy, calling His people back to covenant faithfulness.

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. 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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## 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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כָּרָא וְיָהּ י	אַחָב	אֶת	אֵלֵי הוּא	וַיֹּאמֶר
H1961		H853		
saw	And it came to pass when Ahab	Elijah	said	
H7200	H256	H452	H559	
אַחָב	וְהָיָה	אֵלַי	וְהָיָה	
	H413	H859	H2088	
And it came to pass when Ahab				
H256				
עָלָיו	יִשְׂרָאֵל:			
unto him Art thou he that troubleth	Israel			
H5916	H3478			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 7:25** (References Israel): And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

**1 Kings 21:20** (Parallel theme): And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD.

**Acts 16:20** (Parallel theme): And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,

**Acts 17:6** (Parallel theme): And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

**Acts 24:5** (Parallel theme): For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:

**Amos 7:10** (References Israel): Then Amaziah the priest of Beth-el sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words.