

# 1 Kings 18:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:

## Analysis

---

**Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:**

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 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

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## 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

---

וְנָתַתִּי      לָנוּ      שְׁנַיִם      הַפָּר      וְיִבְחָרוּ      לָהֶם  
**Let them therefore give**      <sup>H0</sup>      **us two**      **bullock**      **and let them choose**      <sup>H1992</sup>  
<sup>H5414</sup>           <sup>H8147</sup>      <sup>H6499</sup>      <sup>H977</sup>

וְנָתַתִּי      הַפָּר      דָּ      הָאֶחָד      וְיִנְתְּחוּ      הוּא      וְיִבְחָרוּ      עַל      אֲשֵׁי־מִן־עֵץ      הָעֵץ  
**bullock**      **one**      **for themselves and cut it in pieces**      **and lay**      <sup>H5921</sup>      **it on wood**  
<sup>H6499</sup>      <sup>H259</sup>      <sup>H5408</sup>      <sup>H7760</sup>           <sup>H6086</sup>

וְנָתַתִּי      דָּ      הַפָּר      אֶת־      אֶעֱשֶׂה      הוּא      וְיִבְחָרוּ      לָנוּ      אֵשׁ־לֹא      וְנָתַתִּי  
**no fire**      <sup>H3808</sup>      **and lay**      <sup>H589</sup>      **under and I will dress**      <sup>H853</sup>      **bullock**      **one**  
<sup>H784</sup>           <sup>H7760</sup>           <sup>H6213</sup>           <sup>H6499</sup>      <sup>H259</sup>

וְנָתַתִּי      עַל      הָעֵץ      מִן־עֵץ      אֵשׁ־לֹא      וְנָתַתִּי      אֶת־  
**Let them therefore give**      <sup>H5921</sup>      **it on wood**      **no fire**      <sup>H3808</sup>      **and lay**  
<sup>H5414</sup>           <sup>H6086</sup>      <sup>H784</sup>           <sup>H7760</sup>