

# 1 Kings 18:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.

## Analysis

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**And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but 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 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. Canaanite fertility religion promised agricultural prosperity through ritual practices honoring Baal (storm god) and Asherah (mother goddess), posing constant temptation to syncretism. 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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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## 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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הָפַר לְכֶם בָּחַר וְהַב עַל לְנָבִיא י אֵלֵי הוּא וַיֹּאמֶר	bullock <sup>H6499</sup>	Choose <sup>H977</sup>	of Baal <sup>H1168</sup>	unto the prophets <sup>H5030</sup>	And Elijah <sup>H452</sup>	said <sup>H559</sup>
הַרְבֵּי יֵם אֶתְּם כִּי רִאשֹׁנָה וְעַשׂוּ וְאַתָּה	for ye are many <sup>H7227</sup>	<sup>H859</sup>	<sup>H3588</sup>	it first <sup>H7223</sup>	for yourselves and dress <sup>H6213</sup>	you one <sup>H259</sup>
תְּשִׁימוּ: לֹא וְאֵשׁ אֱלֹהֵיכֶם בְּשֵׁם וְקִרְאוּ	but put <sup>H7760</sup>	<sup>H3808</sup>	no fire <sup>H784</sup>	of your gods <sup>H430</sup>	on the ~ <sup>H8034</sup>	and call <sup>H7121</sup>

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