

# 1 Kings 18:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

## Analysis

**And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.**

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 sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18).

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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## 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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וַיַּעֲשֵׂה	יְהוָה	הַיְהִי	בְּשָׁם	לְמִזְבֵּחַ	בְּאֹבֶן	יִם	אֶת	יָבֹעַ	הַיְהִי
he built	H854	And with the stones	H68	H4196	H8034	H3068	of the LORD	and he made	H6213
H1129									

תַּעֲלֵל	הַ	קְבִּيت	כְּבִּית	יִם	סָאת	צָעֵד	בְּ	יְבָעֵעַ	לְמִזְבֵּחַ
a trench	H855	as great as would contain	H1004	H5429	H2233	H5439			an altar
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## Additional Cross-References

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**Colossians 3:17** (References Lord): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

