

# 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

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**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

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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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**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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וַיִּבְנֶה הָ	אֶת	הָאֲבָנִים יָם	לְמִזְבֵּחַ:	בִּשְׁם	יְהוָה ה	וַיַּעַשׂ
he built	H854	And with the stones	an altar	in the ~	of the LORD	and he made
H1129		H68	H4196	H8034	H3068	H6213
תֵּעֹל הָ	כְּבִית	שְׁתֵּי	יָרָע	סָבִיב	לְמִזְבֵּחַ:	
a trench	as great as would contain	two measures	of seed	about	an altar	
H8585	H1004	H5429	H2233	H5439	H4196	

## 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.

