

# 1 Kings 18:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

## Analysis

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**And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.**

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

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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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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## 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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וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵל	בְּעָר וְ	וַיַּעַל	וְאֵל	וַיִּצַּט	דָּרָךְ
And he said	H413	to his servant	And he went up	H4994	and looked	toward
H559		H5288	H5927		H5027	H1870
יָם	וַיַּעַל	וַיִּצַּט	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵין	מָה וְמָה	
the sea	And he went up	and looked	And he said	H369	There is nothing	
H3220	H5927	H5027	H559		H3972	
וַיֹּאמֶר	שָׁב	שֶׁבַע	פְּעָמִים:			
And he said	Go again	seven	times			
H559	H7725	H7651	H6471			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Habakkuk 2:3** (Parallel theme): For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

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