

# 1 Kings 19:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

## Analysis

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**And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of elijah flees to horeb, 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. 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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## 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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פָּנָיו      וְלֹט      אֶלְהָה      כִּשְׁמָע      וַיַּחֲדַד  
his face      it that he wrapped      God      And it was so when Elijah      heard

H6440      H3874      H452      H1961      H8085

וְלֹט      הַמִּשְׁעָב      הַכִּבְעָה      בְּאַדְרָת      וְלֹט      אֶלְהָה  
of the cave      in the entering in      mantle      and went out      in his mantle

H4631      H2009      H6607      H3318      H155

פָּנָיו      וְלֹט      אֶלְהָה      וְלֹט      מָה      כִּי  
his face      And behold there came a voice      unto him and said      what      for

H6311      H4100      H559      H6963      H413

אֶלְהָה

And it was so when Elijah

H452

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 19:9** (Parallel theme): And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

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