

# 1 Kings 19:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

## Analysis

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**Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.**

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

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

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

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## **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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יְהִישָׁאַרְתִּי	לְבִישָׁרְאֵל	שִׁבְעַת	אַלְפֵי	כָּל	הַבְּרָכִים	אֲשֶׁר
Yet I have left	in Israel	me seven	thousand	H3605	all the knees	H834
H7604	H3478	H7651	H505		H1290	
לֹא	כָּרְעוּ	לְבַּעַל	וְכָל	הַפִּה	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא
H3808	which have not bowed	unto Baal	H3605	and every mouth	H834	H3808
	H3766	H1168		H6310		
וְאֵשׁ	לֹא					
which hath not kissed						
H5401						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 1:9** (Parallel theme): Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

**Hosea 13:2** (Parallel theme): And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves.

**Psalms 2:12** (Parallel theme): Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

**Philippians 2:10** (Parallel theme): That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

**Isaiah 49:23** (Parallel theme): And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

**Job 31:27** (Parallel theme): And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand:

**Exodus 20:5** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

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