

# 1 Kings 19:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

## Analysis

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**And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto 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 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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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## **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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וַיָּשָׁב	אַחֲרַי	וַתֶּחֶם	אֶת־ <sup>H853</sup>	צֶמֶד	הַבָּקָר	וַיַּזְבֵּחַ הוּא
And he returned back	after	and took		a yoke	of oxen	and slew
H7725	H310	H3947		H6776	H1241	H2076
וּבְכָל־י	הַבָּקָר	בְּשָׁלָם		הַבָּשָׂר	וַתֵּן	
with the instruments	of oxen	them and boiled		their flesh	and gave	
H3627	H1241	H1310		H1320	H5414	
לָעָם	וַיֹּאכֵל לּוֹ	וַיָּקָם	וַיֵּלֶךְ	אַחֲרַי	אֵלֵי הוּא	
unto the people	and they did eat	Then he arose		after	Elijah	
H5971	H398	H6965	H1980	H310	H452	
וַיִּשְׁרָתָהוּ:						
and ministered						
H8334						

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 24:22** (Parallel theme): And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood.

**Exodus 24:13** (Parallel theme): And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God.