

# 1 Kings 19:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

## Analysis

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**And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.**

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. 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

**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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וַיֵּרָא	וַיִּקָּם	וַיֵּלֶךְ	אֵל	נַפְשׁוֹ	וַיָּבֹא	ר
And when he saw	that he arose			for his life	and came	
H7200	H6965	H1980	H413	H5315	H935	H0
שָׁם בְּעַ	אֲשֶׁר	לְיְהוּדָה	וַיֵּצֵא	אֶת	נַעֲרוֹ	שָׁמוֹ:
to Beersheba		which belongeth to Judah	and left		his servant	
H884	H834	H3063	H3240	H853	H5288	H8033

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 21:31** (Parallel theme): Wherefore he called that place Beer-sheba; because there they swore both of them.

**Matthew 26:56** (Parallel theme): But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

