

# 1 Kings 20:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, there came a prophet unto Ahab king of Israel, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.

## Analysis

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**And, behold, there came a prophet unto Ahab king of Israel, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Ahab's wars with Syria, within the book's focus on the 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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1 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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וְהִנֵּה הוּא אֶחָד מֵאֲנָשֵׁי אֱלֹהִים וְהִנֵּה הוּא אֶחָד מֵאֲנָשֵׁי אֱלֹהִים  
H2009 prophet a And behold there came H413 unto Ahab king  
H5030 H259 H5066 H256 H4428

וְהִנֵּה הוּא אֶחָד מֵאֲנָשֵׁי אֱלֹהִים וְהִנֵּה הוּא אֶחָד מֵאֲנָשֵׁי אֱלֹהִים  
of Israel Thus saith H3541 Thus saith that I am the LORD Hast thou seen  
H3478 H559 H559 H3068 H7200

וְהִנֵּה הוּא אֶחָד מֵאֲנָשֵׁי אֱלֹהִים וְהִנֵּה הוּא אֶחָד מֵאֲנָשֵׁי אֱלֹהִים  
H853 H3605 multitude all this great H2088 H2009 behold I will deliver  
H1995 H1419 H5414

וְהִנֵּה הוּא אֶחָד מֵאֲנָשֵׁי אֱלֹהִים וְהִנֵּה הוּא אֶחָד מֵאֲנָשֵׁי אֱלֹהִים  
it into thine hand this day and thou shalt know H3588 H589 that I am the LORD  
H3027 H3117 H3045 H3068

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 20:28** (Kingdom): And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the LORD, Because the Syrians have said, The LORD is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

**Ezekiel 20:22** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless I withdrew mine hand, and wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted in the sight of the heathen, in whose sight I brought them forth.

**Isaiah 37:20** (Kingdom): Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only.

**Joel 3:17** (References Lord): So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

**Ezekiel 20:14** (Parallel theme): But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight I brought them out.

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