

# 1 Kings 20:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty two: and after them he numbered all the people, even all the children of Israel, being seven thousand.

## Analysis

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**Then he numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty two: and after them he numbered all the people, even all the children of Israel, being seven thousand.**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Ahab's wars with Syria, 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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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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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

## 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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וְהָיָה	הַמְּדִינֹת	שָׁרֵי	בְעָרֵי	אֶת	פָּקַד
H1961	H4082	H8269	H5288	H853	H6485
of the provinces	of the princes	the young men	Then he numbered		
אֶת	פָּקַד	וְאַחֲרֵיהֶם	וּשְׁלֹשִׁים	שְׁנַיִם	מֵאֵת
H853	H6485	H310	H7970	H8147	H3967
Then he numbered	and after	and thirty	and they were two	hundred	
אֲלֵפִים:	שִׁבְעַת	יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי	הָעָם	כָּל
H505	H7651	H3478	H1121	H5971	H3605
thousand	being seven	of Israel	even all the children	all the people	

