

# 1 Kings 20:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the young men of the princes of the provinces went out first; and Ben-hadad sent out, and they told him, saying, There are men come out of Samaria.

## Analysis

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**And the young men of the princes of the provinces went out first; and Ben-hadad sent out, and they told him, saying, There are men come out of Samaria.**

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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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 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## 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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וַיֵּצֵא ו	וַיָּבֵר י	שָׂרֵי י	הַמְּדִינֹת וְ	בְּרֵאשֵׁן ה		
come out	And the young men	of the princes	of the provinces	first		
H3318	H5288	H8269	H4082	H7223		
וַיֵּשְׁלַח ח	בֶּן	הַבְּדָד ד	וַיֹּדוּ	לֹא	לֵאמֹר ר	אֲנָשׁ יִם
sent out	H0	and Benhadad	and they told	H0	him saying	There are men
H7971		H1130	H5046		H559	H582
וַיֵּצֵא ו	מִשְׁמֶרֶת:					
come out	of Samaria					
H3318	H8111					