

# 1 Kings 20:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.**

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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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## 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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וַיָּבֹא And there came H5066	אִישׁ a man H376	אֲלֵהּ י but he is not God H430	אָמַר ו Thus saith H559	אֶל H413	מֶלֶךְ unto the king H4428		
יִשְׂרָאֵל of Israel H3478	אָמַר ו Thus saith H559	כֹּה H3541	אָמַר ו Thus saith H559	יְהוָה: The LORD H3068	עַן H3282	אֲשֶׁר ר H834	אָמַר ו Thus saith H559
אֲכֵם Because the Syrians H758	אֲלֵהּ י but he is not God H430	הַרִים of the hills H2022	יְהוָה: The LORD H3068	וְלֹא H3808			
אֲלֵהּ י but he is not God H430	עֲמָקֵי ים of the valleys H6010	ה וּא H1931	וְנָתַתִּי therefore will I deliver H5414	אֶת H853	כָּל H3605		
הַקָּמ וּן multitude H1995	הַגָּדוֹל all this great H1419	הַזֶּה H2088	בְּיָדְךָ into thine hand H3027	וְיָדַעְתָּ and ye shall know H3045	כִּי H3588	אֲנִי H589	
יְהוָה: The LORD H3068							

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 20:13** (Kingdom): 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.

**1 Kings 17:18** (References God): And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?

**Psalms 79:10** (References God): Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God? let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy servants which is shed.

**Ezekiel 12:16** (References Lord): But I will leave a few men of them from the sword, from the famine, and from the pestilence; that they may declare all their abominations among the heathen whither they come; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

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