

# 1 Kings 20:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said he unto him, Because thou hast not obeyed the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee. And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and slew him.

## Analysis

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**Then said he unto him, Because thou hast not obeyed the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee. And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and slew him.**

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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שָׁמָעֲתָ	לֹא אָשַׁר יִשְׁעָל לֹא יִאָתֶר	לֹא אָשַׁר יִשְׁעָל לֹא יִאָתֶר	Then said	H0	H3282	H834	H3808	he unto him Because thou hast not obeyed	H8085
H559								H8085	
מִתְאַתִּ	וְלֹא יִלְבַּד	וְלֹא יִלְבַּד	מִתְאַתִּ						
the voice	of the LORD	the voice	of the LORD	H2005				behold as soon as thou art departed	H853
H6963	H3068							H1980	
מִאָצֶל	וְלֹא יִלְבַּד	וְלֹא יִלְבַּד	מִאָצֶל						
him and slew	a lion	him and slew	him and slew	H5221	H738	H5221		behold as soon as thou art departed	H681
H4672								H1980	
וְלֹא יִמְצָא	וְלֹא יִמְצָא	וְלֹא יִמְצָא	וְלֹא יִמְצָא	וְלֹא יִמְצָא				from him	
found	a lion	him and slew	him and slew	H4672	H738	H5221			

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