

# 1 Kings 20:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he hasted, and took the ashes away from his face; and the king of Israel discerned him that he was of the prophets.

## Analysis

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**And he hasted, and took the ashes away from his face; and the king of Israel discerned him that he was of the prophets.**

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 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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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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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## 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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וַיַּמְהֵר	אֶת	וַיֵּסֶר	הָאֵפֶר	מֵעַל	עֵינָיו
And he hastened		away	and took the ashes		from his face
H4116	H853	H5493	H666	H5921	H5869
וַיִּבְחַן	אֹתוֹ	מֶלֶךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	כִּי	מִהַנְּבִיאִים
discerned		and the king	of Israel		him that he was of the prophets
H5234	H853	H4428	H3478	H3588	H5030
הוא:					
H1931					