

# 2 Kings 1:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they answered him, He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite.

## Analysis

**And they answered him, He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 1: Divine judgment on apostasy and affirmation of prophetic authority. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. During this period, Israel and Judah struggled with persistent idolatry, particularly Baal worship introduced under Ahab and Jezebel.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

## Historical Context

**Historical Setting:** 2 Kings 1 takes place during the mid-9th century BCE, around 850 BCE, during the transition from Elijah to Elisha. The chapter's theme (Ahaziah's Illness and Elijah's Final Confrontations) reflects the historical reality of prophetic succession and divine affirmation of Elisha's ministry following Elijah's remarkable translation. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

## Related Passages

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

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 1 regarding divine judgment on apostasy and affirmation of prophetic authority?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵלֹהִים	יָאָמַר	רְאֵלִי	בְּעֵל	אִישׁ	אֵלִי	וְאֵלִים	רְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים
<b>And he said</b>	H413	H376	<b>man</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>He was an hairy</b>	<b>with a girdle</b>	<b>of leather</b>		
	H559		H1167		H8181	H232		H5785	
וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים	וְאֵלִים
<b>and girt</b>	<b>about his loins</b>	<b>And he said</b>	<b>It is Elijah</b>	<b>the Tishbite</b>				H1931	
H247	H4975	H559	H452	H8664					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 3:4** (Parallel theme): And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

**Zechariah 13:4** (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive:

**Mark 1:6** (Parallel theme): And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

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