

# 1 Kings 17:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?

## Analysis

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**And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Elijah and the drought, 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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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for 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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עַל	הָ	גַּם	אֱלֹהֵי	יְהוָה	וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	אֵל	וַיִּקְרָא
			my God	O LORD	and said	O LORD	H413	And he cried
			H430	H3068	H559	H3068		H7121
בְּנֶהּ:	אֶת	לְהַמִּית	הָרָע	וְ	אֲשֶׁר	הָאֵלְמָנָה	עַמָּה	הָ
her son		by slaying	hast thou also brought evil			upon the widow		
H1121	H853	H4191	H7489			H490		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 21:22** (Parallel theme): And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

**Psalms 99:6** (References Lord): Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

**Exodus 17:4** (References Lord): And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

**2 Kings 19:15** (References God): And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

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