

# 1 Kings 17:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.

## Analysis

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**So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.**

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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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## 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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וַיַּעֲשֵׂה	וְיֻלְּגֵן	כִּי-לֹא	יְהִי-הָ	וְיַשְׁבֵּן
H1980	and did	according unto the word	of the LORD	H1980
H6213		H1697	H3068	and dwelt
בְּרֵקְעָנָה	גַּתִּי	עַל	אֲשֶׁר	בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל
by the brook	Cherith	H834	H5921	that is before
H5158	H3747		H6440	Jordan
				H3383

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 3:5** (References Lord): Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

**Matthew 16:24** (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

**John 15:14** (Parallel theme): Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

**1 Kings 19:9** (Word): And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

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