

# 1 Kings 20:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the messengers came again, and said, Thus speaketh Ben-hadad, saying, Although I have sent unto thee, saying, Thou shalt deliver me thy silver, and thy gold, and thy wives, and thy children;

## Analysis

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**And the messengers came again, and said, Thus speaketh Ben-hadad, saying, Although I have sent unto thee, saying, Thou shalt deliver me thy silver, and thy gold, and thy wives, and thy children;**

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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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

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

## 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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בָּן	לֵאמֹר	כֹּה	לֵאמֹר	הַמַּלְאָכִים	וַיָּשׁוּ בּוֹ
H0	Thus speaketh	H3541	Thus speaketh	H559	came again
	H559			H4397	H7725
לֵאמֹר	אֵלַי	שָׁלַחְתִּי	כִּי	לֵאמֹר	בְּהָדָד
Thus speaketh	H413	Although I have sent	H3588	Thus speaketh	Benhadad
H559		H7971		H559	H1130
תִּתֶּן:	לִי	וּבְנֵי יָד	וְנָשֵׁי יָד	וְהַבָּר	כֶּסֶף
H0	Thou shalt deliver	H1121	and thy wives	and thy gold	me thy silver
H5414			H802	H2091	H3701

