

# 1 Kings 5:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants: and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt appoint: for thou knowest that there is not among us any that can skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians.

## Analysis

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**Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants: and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt appoint: for thou knowest that there is not among us any that can skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians.**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of preparations for building the temple, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy.

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. Solomon's reign (c. 970-930 BCE) represented Israel's golden age of peace and prosperity.

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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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does the temple as God's dwelling place help us understand Christ's incarnation and the church as God's temple today?
2. What does Solomon's prayer and dedication teach about approaching God in worship and prayer?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

## Interlinear Text

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מִן	אֲרָזִים	לִי	לִכְתּוֹת	צִוָּה	וְעַתָּה הִ
H4480	me cedar trees	H0	thou that they hew	Now therefore command	H6258
	H730		H3772	H6680	
וְשָׂכָר	עֲבָדֵי יָד	עִם	יְהִי וְ	עֲבָדֵי יָד	הַלְבָּנוֹן
hire	and my servants	H5973	H1961	and my servants	out of Lebanon
H7939	H5650			H5650	H3844
אֲשֶׁר	כָּל לֵבָר	אֶתְּ	וְ	עֲבָדֵי יָד	
H834	H3605	H0		and my servants	
				and unto thee will I give	
				H5414	
כִּי	יָדָעַ	אֶתְּ הִ	כִּי יֵן	תֹּאמֶר	
H3588	for thou knowest	H859	H3588	according to all that thou shalt appoint	
	H3045			H559	
לִכְתּוֹת	יָדָעַ	אֶתְּ	אֵין	אֵין	כִּי
thou that they hew	for thou knowest	H3045	that there is not among us any	that there is not among us any	H369
H3772			H376		H0
				כְּצִדְוֹנִים:	עֵץ
				like unto the Sidonians	timber
				H6722	H6086

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Chronicles 2:8** (Parallel theme): Send me also cedar trees, fir trees, and algum trees, out of Lebanon: for I know that thy servants can skill to cut timber in Lebanon; and, behold, my servants shall be with thy servants,