

# 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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**Psalm 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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וַיֹּאמֶר	צֹהֵךְ	לְקַרְתָּה	לִ	מִן	אֶבֶן יִם	וְעַמְתָּה
H6258	H6680	H3772	H0	H730	me cedar trees	H4480
Now therefore command	thou that they hew					
out of Lebanon	and my servants	H1961	H5973	and my servants	hire	
H3844	H5650			H5650	H7939	
and my servants	and unto thee will I give	H5414	H0	H3605	H834	
H5650						
תָּאַמֵּן רָ	אַתָּה כִּי	לְבָ	אֲשֶׁר כִּי לְבָ	כִּי יְדַעַת		
according to all that thou shalt appoint	H559	H3588	H859	for thou knowest	H3588	
H3045						
וְאַתָּה אַתָּה	אֲוֹשֵׁ	וְיָדְעָ	לְקַרְתָּה			
H369	H0	that there is not among us any	for thou knowest	thou that they hew		
		H376	H3045	H3772		
timber	like unto the Sidonians	H6722				
H6086						
כַּאֲדָמִים:	עֵץ יַם					

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Chronicles 2:8** (Parallel theme): Send me also cedar trees, fir trees, and al gum 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,