

# 2 Kings 16:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the covert for the sabbath that they had built in the house, and the king's entry without, turned he from the house of the LORD for the king of Assyria.

## Analysis

**And the covert for the sabbath that they had built in the house, and the king's entry without, turned he from the house of the LORD for the king of Assyria.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 16: Desperate alliances and religious compromise. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. This passage occurs during the decline toward Israel's exile, demonstrating how persistent covenant unfaithfulness leads to national disaster.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

## Historical Context

**Historical Setting:** 2 Kings 16 takes place during the declining years of the northern kingdom, 8th century BCE, culminating in exile in 722 BCE. The chapter's theme (Ahaz's Apostasy) reflects the historical reality of desperate political alliances and religious syncretism as Judah faced external threats. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions,

administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 16 regarding desperate alliances and religious compromise?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּ יַתְּנֵה אֶת מִיסְבֵּת בְּשַׁבָּת הַשְׁבָּת  
H853 And the covert for the sabbath H834 that they had built  
H4329 H7676 H1129 H1004

בְּ יַתְּנֵה אֶת מִבְּאָתָר לְבָנָה בְּחַיצֵּן וְנֵה בְּבָנָה  
H853 entry and the king's without turned H1004 he from the house  
H3996 H4428 H2435 H5437 H1004

אֲשֹׁור: מִלְּגָדָה מִפְּנֵי יְהוָה  
of the LORD for and the king's of Assyria  
H3068 H6440 H4428 H804