

# 2 Kings 18:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign.

## Analysis

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**Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign.**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 18: Faithful reformation faces external pressure. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. In Judah's later history, we see both genuine reforms and deep-rooted corruption, revealing that external religious activity cannot substitute for heart transformation.

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

## Historical Context

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**Historical Setting:** 2 Kings 18 takes place during Hezekiah's reign in Judah, late 8th century BCE, around 715-686 BCE. The chapter's theme (Hezekiah's Reforms and Assyrian Threat) reflects the historical reality of genuine religious reform under Hezekiah, including trust in God that resulted in miraculous deliverance from Assyria. 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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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 18 regarding faithful reformation faces external pressure?
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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וְיָהִי	בְּשָׁנָה	שְׁלֹשָׁה	לְהוֹשֵׁעַ	בֶּן	אֵלָּה
H1961	year	Now it came to pass in the third	of Hoshea	son	of Elah
	H8141	H7969	H1954	H1121	H425

מֶלֶךְ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מָלַךְ	חִזְקִיָּה	בֶּן	אָחָז	מֶלֶךְ
king	of Israel	began to reign	that Hezekiah	son	of Ahaz	king
H4428	H3478	H4427	H2396	H1121	H271	H4428

יְהוּדָה:  
of Judah  
H3063

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Chronicles 3:13** (Parallel theme): Ahaz his son, Hezekiah his son, Manasseh his son,