

# 2 Kings 18:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou sayest, (but they are but vain words,) I have counsel and strength for the war. Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me?

## Analysis

**Thou sayest, (but they are but vain words,) I have counsel and strength for the war. Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me?**

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 18: Faithful reformation faces external pressure. 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

**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

## **Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation**

## **John 3:16 — God's love and salvation**

## Study Questions

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

אַמְּרָת	אָמֵן	דְּבָר	שְׁפָתִים	עָצָה	עִגּוּבָה
<b>Thou sayest</b>	H389	<b>words</b>	<b>but they are but vain</b>	<b>I have counsel</b>	<b>and strength</b>

בְּטַח	מִן	עַל	עַתָּה	לְמַלְתָּמָם	ה	כ
Now on whom dost thou trust	H3588	H4310	H5921	H6258	for the war	
העתק	העתק	העתק	העתק	העתק	העתק	העתק

מִכְלָתָךְ  
that thou rebellest

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