

2 Kings 18:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me, and then eat ye every man of his own vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his cistern:

Analysis

Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me, and then eat ye every man of his own vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his cistern:

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

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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

אֶל	תִּשְׁמָע וְ	אֶל	חִזְקִיָּהוּ	כִּי	כֹה	אָמַר	מֶלֶךְ
H408	Hearken	H413	not to Hezekiah	H3588	H3541	for thus saith	the king
	H8085		H2396			H559	H4428
וְ	אֲשֶׁר	וְ	אֶת־יְ	בְרָכָה	וְ	וְ	אֵלֶּי
	of Assyria		H854	an agreement with me by a present		and come out	H413
	H804		H6213	H1293		H3318	
וְ	אֶכֶל	וְ	אֶשׁ	גִּפְנוֹ	וְ	אֶשׁ	תְּאֵנָתוֹ
	to me and then eat		and every one	of his own vine		and every one	of his fig tree
	H398		H376	H1612		H376	H8384
וְ	שָׁתָה	וְ	אֶשׁ	מִי	בְּרוֹ:		
	and drink		and every one	the waters	of his cistern		
	H8354		H376	H4325	H953		

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 4:25 (Parallel theme): And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon.

Zechariah 3:10 (Parallel theme): In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree.

1 Kings 4:20 (Kingdom): Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry.

Proverbs 18:16 (Parallel theme): A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.