

# 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

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

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## 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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אָל	אָמַר	כִּי	אָל	תִּשְׁמַע	וְ	אָל	לְגַנְךָ	אָמַר	כִּי	אָל	תִּשְׁמַע	וְ	אָל	לְגַנְךָ	
H408	<b>Hearken</b>	H413	<b>not to Hezekiah</b>	H3588	H3541	<b>for thus saith</b>	<b>the king</b>	H559	H4428						
		H8085		H2396											
וְ	אַתְּ	וְ	עֲשֵׂו	אַשְׁר	וְ	בְּרָכָה		וְ	אַצְאֵ	וְ	אַל				
of Assyria	<b>Make</b>	H854				<b>an agreement with me by a present</b>	<b>and come out</b>	H1293	H3318			H413			
H804		H6213													
וְ	אַכְלֵ	וְ	אַיִשׁ	וְ	גִּפְנֵו	וְ	אַיִשׁ	וְ	תְּאַגֵּת	וְ					
to me and then eat	<b>and every one</b>	H376	<b>of his own vine</b>	H1612		<b>and every one</b>	<b>of his fig tree</b>	H376	H8384						
H398															
וְ	וְ	אַיִשׁ	וְ	תְּרֵזָה											
and drink	<b>and every one</b>	H376	<b>the waters</b>	H4325		<b>of his cistern</b>		H953							
H8354															

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.