

# 2 Kings 18:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the people held their peace, and answered him not a word: for the king's commandment was, saying, Answer him not.

## Analysis

**But the people held their peace, and answered him not a word: for the king's commandment was, saying, Answer him not.**

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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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**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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|                    |                |       |        |             |                |       |
|--------------------|----------------|-------|--------|-------------|----------------|-------|
| וְהַחֲרֵר יְשָׁוֹן | בָּעֵם         | לֹא   | אֶת    | וְתַּעֲנֹה: | זֶבֶר          | כִּי  |
| held their peace   | But the people | H3808 | Answer | H853        | him not a word | H3588 |
| H2790              | H5971          |       | H6030  |             | H1697          |       |

|             |                |       |            |             |        |
|-------------|----------------|-------|------------|-------------|--------|
| מְצִינְת    | לְגַם רַבָּא   | לֹא   | לִאמְרָה   | לְאַמְתָּה: | זֶבֶר  |
| commandment | for the king's | H1931 | was saying | H3808       | Answer |
| H4687       | H4428          |       | H559       |             | H6030  |

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