

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

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

וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃	וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃	וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃	וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃	וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃	וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃	וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃
held their peace	But the people	H3808	Answer	H853	him not a word	H3588
H2790	H5971		H6030		H1697	
וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃	וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃	וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃	וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃	וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃	וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃	וְהָיָה יָשׁוּ׃
commandment	for the king's	H1931	was saying	H3808	Answer	H6030
H4687	H4428		H559			

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