

# Hosea 10:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For now they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the LORD; what then should a king do to us?

## Analysis

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Kingless confession: 'For now they shall say, We have no king, because we feared not the LORD; what then should a king do to us?' The anticipated confession: אֵין מֶלֶךְ לָנוּ (ein melekh lanu, no king for us) because כִּי לֹא יָרֵאנוּ אֶת־יְהוָה (ki lo yarenu et-YHWH, we feared not the LORD). The rhetorical question: what can human king accomplish without divine blessing? This demonstrates political futility when covenant relationship is broken. Kings cannot substitute for God; human authority depends on divine legitimation. Only Christ the King rules righteously and eternally (Revelation 19:16).

## Historical Context

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The confession 'we have no king' proved literally true: Israel's last king Hoshea imprisoned by Assyria, kingdom ending without successor (2 Kings 17:4). The rapid succession of assassinations meant many periods effectively kingless. The admission that fearing YHWH is prerequisite for beneficial kingship addresses Israel's core failure: establishing monarchy 'not by Me' (8:4), trusting human rulers rather than divine King. Judges period showed this pattern: when Israel served YHWH, even flawed leaders succeeded; when apostate, even capable kings failed. This demonstrates that political structures succeed only when founded on covenant faithfulness. Church-state relations throughout history confirm this principle.

## Related Passages

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

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing that 'fearing the LORD' is prerequisite for beneficial government affect Christian political engagement?
2. What does the futility of kingship apart from divine blessing teach about human authority's limitations?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי	עַתָּה	יֹאמְרוּ	אֵין	וְהָם לָךְ	לֹא	כִּי	לֹא
H3588	H6258	H559	H369	H4428	H0	H3588	H3808
		For now they shall say		We have no king			
	יָרֵא אֲנוּ	אֶת	יְהוָה	וְהָם לָךְ	מֶה	עֲשֶׂה	לָנוּ:
	H3372	H853	H3068	H4428	H4100	H6213	H0
	because we feared		not the LORD	We have no king		do	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hosea 10:15** (Kingdom): So shall Beth-el do unto you because of your great wickedness: in a morning shall the king of Israel utterly be cut off.

**Hosea 13:11** (Kingdom): I gave thee a king in mine anger, and took him away in my wrath.

**Hosea 10:7** (Kingdom): As for Samaria, her king is cut off as the foam upon the water.

**John 19:15** (Kingdom): But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

**Genesis 49:10** (Parallel theme): The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

**Hosea 3:4** (Kingdom): For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:

**Micah 4:9** (Kingdom): Now why dost thou cry out aloud? is there no king in thee? is thy counsellor perished? for pangs have taken thee as a woman in travail.

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