

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
HEZEKIAH'S VS. ASSYRIA

2 KINGS 18:13 - 19:37; 2 CHRONICLES 32:1-23; ISAIAH 36:1 - 37:38

Introduction

Last week we saw as **HEZEKIAH** came to power after the death of his wicked father **AHAZ**! Immediately **HEZEKIAH** became a catalyst for a Spiritual revival in the land of Judah. He didn't wait either! He began the moment that he came to the throne!

Read 2 Kings 18:5-7

The last part of vs. 7 is what we will look at this evening! **Hezekiah rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not!**

I. WE SEE WHAT ASSYRIA DID TO ISRAEL IN THE FOURTH THROUGH SIXTH YEARS OF HEZEKIAH'S REIGN!

(2 Kings 18:9-12; Cf. 2 Kings 17:1-18)

We dealt with this when we dealt with **ISRAEL'S** end in the previous Chapter before we dealt with **AHAZ** in **JUDAH**.

We know from what we have studied that **JUDAH** had also been increasingly wicked under the administration of **HEZEKIAH'S** father **AHAZ**.

HEZEKIAH and the people of **JUDAH** might have expected that the **LORD** was upset with them enough to suffer a similar fate!

However, **HEZEKIAH'S** revival in returning the nation of **JUDAH** to the **LORD** returned the nation to having the **LORD'S** favor as we will shortly see!

II. WE SEE THE OPPRESSION OF ASSYRIA AGAINST JUDAH!
ASSYRIA was the great world power in the eighth century B.C.

A. There Was The Oppression Against AHAZ of JUDAH!

AHAZ sought the help of **ASSYRIA** to fight against both **SYRIA** and **ISRAEL** who were the instruments of the **LORD** meeting out punishment to **AHAZ** and **JUDAH** because of **AHAZ'S** great sins against the **LORD**.

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We saw how **TILGATH-PILNESER III** was the king of **ASSYRIA** at that time who took **AHAZ'S** "presents" (i.e. tribute of gold and silver) and "**distressed him, but strengthened him not!**" (*2 Chronicles 28:20*)

SHALMANESER V then came to the throne of **ASSYRIA** after his father **TILGATH-PILNESER III** died at close to the same time that **AHAZ** died and **HEZEKIAH** came to power.

According to *2 Kings 18:9*, **SHALMANESER V** is the one who defeated the northern kingdom of **ISRAEL** and carried them away into captivity. But his reign ended when **SARGON II** killed him and took over the Assyrian empire and began what is known as the **SARGONID** dynasty which would be the last **ASSYRIAN** dynasty!

SARGON II reigned until about **705 B.C.** and then his son, **SENNACHERIB**, the **ASSYRIAN** ruler mentioned in our text, reigned after the death of his father. **SENNACHERIB** ruled until he was murdered by two of his own sons and a third son took his place.

B. We See ASSYRIA'S First Invasion Of JUDAH During HEZEKIAH'S Reign. (2 Kings 18:13-16)

It appears that the reason for this first invasion was that **HEZEKIAH** had rebelled against **ASSYRIA** by not paying tribute as his father **AHAZ** had done. (*Vs 14*).

So **SENNACHERIB'S** army invaded **JUDAH** and easily took the fenced cities of **JUDAH** surrounding **JERUSALEM** but not the city **JERUSALEM** itself. (*Vs 13*)

In order to stop **ASSYRIA** from invading **JERUSALEM**, **HEZEKIAH** sent word that he would pay such tribute as the **ASSYRIANS** asked. (*Vs 14-16*) He obviously did not feel that they were prepared to fight at this time.

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The **ASSYRIANS** demanded three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. (Millions of dollars)

So, **HEZEKIAH** stripped the gold and silver from the temple and his own home and handed it over to the **ASSYRIAN** king.

HEZEKIAH'S actions gained him a two-year reprieve.

C. We See ASSYRIA'S Second Invasion Of JUDAH During HEZEKIAH'S Reign. (2 Kings 18:17-19:37; 2 Chronicles 32:1-12; Isaiah 36:1-37:28)

RABSHAKEH was the captain of **SENNACHERIB'S** army and the one doing a lot of the speaking to **JERUSALEM** and **HEZEKIAH'S** representatives.

1. HEZEKIAH recognized that ASSYRIA would not be appeased for long and so he made preparations. (2 Chronicles 32:1-8)

a. They stopped the water without the city. (32:3-4)

They actually closed off the fountains and built a conduit to bring the water into the city.

This was a great engineering fete accomplished by Hezekiah.

b. He built up the walls and made weapons. (32:5)

c. He organized and encouraged his army. (32:6-8)

2. The ASSYRIANS made speeches belittling HEZEKIAH and blaspheming God. (32:9-19)

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3. HEZEKIAH sent his servants to ISAIAH asking him to pray to the LORD GOD for their deliverance from the ASSYRIANS.

a. HEZEKIAH recognized that their only hope was the **LORD GOD. (2 Kings 19:1-5)**
When your only hope is the LORD, that is the best hope that you can have!

b. ISAIAH sent word that the **LORD GOD** had spoken and **HE** would defeat the **ASSYRIANS! (2 Kings 19:6-7)**

4. RABSHAKEH returned to Lachish and found that his king had left there to fight against Libnah and then there was another war front with Ethiopia. (2 King 19:8-9a)

5. RABSHAKEH then sent messengers to HEZEKIAH with a letter threatening immediate action against him. (2 Kings 19:8-13)

D. We See HEZEKIAH Took This To The LORD GOD In Prayer! (2 Kings 19:14-19)

He went to the **TEMPLE** and spread the letter before the **LORD. (Vs 14)**

He acknowledged the supremacy of the **LORD GOD** being as there really is only one true **GOD! (Vs 15)**

He asked the **LORD** to listen to the blasphemous words of **SENNACHERIB! (Vs 16)**

He acknowledged the truth of what the **ASSYRIANS** had previously done to other nations and their gods which weren't really gods at all! **(Vs 17-18)**

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He asks the LORD to intervene and save them out of SENNACHERIB'S hand for HIS own glory and as a testimony to other nations that HE alone is GOD!

E. We See The LORD Then Answered HEZEKIAH'S Prayer By The Prophet ISAIAH With A Message Against SENNACHERIB And ASSYRIA! (2 Kings 19:20-28)

1. The **LORD** said **JERUSALEM despised, laughed at, and shaken her head at the ASSYRIANS! (Vs 20-21)**
2. The **LORD** then reminded **ASSYRIA WHOM** they had reproached, blasphemed, exalted their voice against, and lifted up their eyes on high against! **(Vs 22)**
3. The **LORD** then reminded **ASSYRIA** of their words of reproach against **HIM** and **HIS** people! **(Vs 23-24)**
4. The **LORD** then reminded **ASSYRIA** of **HIS PERSON AND HIS SOVEREIGNTY** and how **HE** was the **ONE WHO** gave them their previous victories! **(Vs 25-26)**
5. The **LORD** lets them know that **HE** knows where they are and what their plans are and their rage against **HIM!** **(Vs 27)**
6. The **LORD** then tells them that because of their rage against **HIM** that **HE** was going to have them heading back to where they came from! **(Vs 28)**

F. We See The LORD Gave HEZEKIAH And JUDAH A SIGN! (2 Kings 19:29-31)

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G. We See The LORD's Message Of Certainty And Comfort To HEZEKIAH AND JERUSALEM! (2 Kings 19:32-34)

**H. We See The LORD Fulfilled His Word That Same Night! (2 Kings 19:35-37)
GOD destroyed 185,000 ASSYRIANS. (Vs 35)**

SENNACHERIB and his armies returned to **NINEVEH.** **(Vs 36)**

SENNACHERIB was slain by two of his sons while he was worshiping his god and his throne was assumed by a third son. **(Vs 37)**