

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)**