

Truly Trust Truth

Isaiah 7:9

April 19, 2020

VIDEO 1: *The Anatomy of Faith*

INTRO:

Friends and loved ones, I pray that, with the help of Mr. Ludy I have your attention... I pray that you are now thinking about your faith. I hope with all my heart that you understand and embrace the FACT that it's not enough to LIKE the promises of faith, or merely LISTEN to teachings about faith. No. God's Word is clear. The true children of God are to **love and LIVE... gospel-faith!**

We walk by faith and not by sight!

Faith without works is dead!

T/S: Herein we find one of the Bible's clearest patterns...

CONTEXT:

- A. Sermon series...
- B. Christ, Christianity, & the Church
- C. Connecting dots... *(1 story told in 5 places/ways)*

Psalm 46/91 = 2 Kings 18-20; 2 Chron. 29-32; Isaiah 36-39

BIG IDEA: **Truly Trust Truth!**

Who, what, & HOW you trust matters!

Key Characters:

- Ahaz - **Defiled** truth & faith
- Sennacherib - **Mocked** truth & faith
- Isaiah - **Proclaimed** truth & faith
- Hezekiah - **Championed** truth & faith
- YOU - ???

Text:

Isaiah 7:9

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand (be firm) at all.

VIDEO 2: *Understand & Accept Christian Truth & Faith*

I. Ahaz **DEFILED** Truth & Faith

2 Chronicles 28: *Judah Defeated*

5...the LORD his God gave him into the hand of the king of Syria, who defeated him and took captive a great number of his people and brought them to Damascus. He was also given into the hand of the king of Israel, who struck him with great force... **6**...killed 120,000 from Judah in one day, all of them men of valor, because they had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers.

16At that time King Ahaz sent to the king of Assyria for help...

19For the LORD humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had made Judah act sinfully and had been very unfaithful to the LORD.

22In the time of his distress he became yet more faithless to the LORD... **23**For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus that had defeated him and said, "Because the gods of the kings of Syria helped them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me." **But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel.** **24**And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and he shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and he made himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem. **25**In every city of Judah he made high places to make offerings to other gods, provoking to anger the LORD, the God of his fathers.

VIDEO 3: *Action of Faith (Grabs Ahold of God!)*

II. Sennacherib **MOCKED** Truth & Faith

2 Chronicles 32: Sennacerib & Hezekiah

Sennacherib Invades Judah

1After these things and these acts of **(Hezekiah's)** faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah and encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them for himself

10“Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria, ‘**On what are you trusting**, that you endure the siege in Jerusalem? **11**Is not Hezekiah misleading you, that he may give you over to die by famine and by thirst, when he tells you, “The LORD our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria”?’

14 **(Sennacherib said)** Who among all the gods of those nations that my fathers devoted to destruction was able to deliver his people from my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you from my hand? **15**Now, therefore, **do not let Hezekiah deceive you** or mislead you in this fashion, and do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or from the hand of my fathers. **How much less will your God deliver you out of my hand!**”

16And his servants said still more against the LORD God and against his servant Hezekiah. **17**And he wrote letters to cast contempt on the LORD, the God of Israel, and to speak against him, saying, “Like the gods of the nations of the lands who have not delivered their people from my hands, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver his people from my

hand.” 18And they shouted it with a loud voice in the language of Judah to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to frighten and terrify them, in order that they might take the city.

III. Isaiah **PROCLAIMED** Truth & Faith

2 Chron. 32:20

Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet... prayed because of this and cried to heaven.

➤ He was a Prophet, an Ambassador, a FRIEND!

VIDEO 4: *Immovable... Essence of Psalm 46*

IV. Hezekiah **CHAMPIONED** Truth & Faith

2 Chronicles 29-30:

Hezekiah Reigns in Judah... Cleanses the Temple... Restores Temple Worship

*36And Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced
because God had provided for the people, for the
thing came about suddenly.*

Passover Celebrated

1Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, ...that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem to keep the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel.

7Do not be like your fathers and your brothers, who were faithless to the LORD God... so that he made them a desolation, as you see. 8Do not now be stiff-necked as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD and come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever, and serve the LORD your God, that his fierce anger may turn away from you. 9...For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him.”

12The hand of God was also on Judah to give them one heart...

14They set to work and removed the altars that were in Jerusalem...

20And the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people.

2 Chronicles 32: Sennacerib & Hezekiah

Sennacherib Invades Judah

2And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem, **3**he planned with his officers and his mighty men to stop the water of the springs that were outside the city; and they helped him.

([2 Kings 19:14](#))

Hezekiah's Prayer

Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD and spread it before the LORD.

5He set to work resolutely and built up all the wall that was broken down and raised towers upon it, and outside it he built another wall, and he strengthened... the city of David. **He also made weapons and shields in abundance.** **6**And he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying, **7****“Be strong and courageous.** Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for **there are more with us than with him.**

8With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

The LORD Delivers Jerusalem

20Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet... *prayed because of this and cried to heaven.*

T/S: OK... here's where everything comes together!

VIDEO 5: *Victory of Faith* (Facts, Faith, & Feelings)

V. YOU... with Truth & Faith???

Here's how the things finished... **(2 Kings 19)**

20Isaiah... sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Your prayer to me about Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.

32“Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there, or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege against it...

34For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.”

35*And that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.*

36Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went home and lived at Nineveh...

(his sons killed him with the sword in their pagan temple after that)

T/S: Here's the hook... all of this gave rise to Psalm 46...

Remember: *Truly Trust Truth!*

Who, what, & HOW you believe matters!

God Is Our Fortress

- 46** God is our refuge and strength,
a very present^[b] help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the
sea,
- ³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah*
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of
God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
- ⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*
- ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

VIDEO 6: *Relentless*

¹⁰ “Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Let's PRAY!

Research Notes:

Psalm 46:1-11 THERE are two events, one or other of which probably supplies the historical basis of this and the two following psalms. One is Jehoshaphat's deliverance from the combined forces of the bordering nations. {[2 Chronicles 20:1-37](#)} Delitzsch adopts this as the occasion of the psalm.

But the other more usually accepted reference to the destruction of Sennacherib's army is more probable. Psalm 46:1-11; Psalm 48:1-14 have remarkable parallelisms with Isaiah.

The noble contrast of the quiet river which makes glad the city of God with a tossing, earth-shaking sea resembles the prophet's threatening that the effect of refusing the "waters of Shiloah which go softly" would be inundation by the strong and mighty river, the Assyrian power. And the emblem is expanded in the striking language of [Isaiah 33:21](#) : "The glorious Lord will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars." Encircled by the flashing links of that broad moat,

Jerusalem sits secure. Again, **the central thought of the refrain in the psalm, "The Lord of hosts is with us," is closely allied to the symbolic name which Isaiah gave as a pledge of deliverance, "Immanuel, God with us."**

The structure is simple. The three strophes into which the psalm falls set forth

substantially the same thought, that ***God's presence is safety and peace, whatever storms may***

roar. This general theme is exhibited in the first strophe ([Psalm 46:1-3](#)) in reference to natural convulsions; in the second ([Psalm 46:4-7](#)) in reference to the rage of hostile kingdoms; and in the third ([Psalm 46:8-11](#)) men are summoned to behold a recent example of God's delivering might, which establishes the truth of the preceding utterances and has occasioned the psalm. The grand refrain which closes the second and third strophes should probably be restored at the end of [Psalm 46:3](#).

- **Expositor's Bible Commentary**

There was to them an Infinite Protector; there were unfailing sources of peace; they had nothing to dread. It was their duty, therefore, to be calm, still, confiding, for God would be exalted among the nations of the earth. It is possible that the psalm refers to the invasion of the land of Israel by Sennacherib, and to the miraculous destruction of his host, as recorded in 2 Kings 19 and Isa. 36; 37. All the circumstances in that invasion - the tumultuous hosts summoned for the war [Isa 36:2](#); the overthrow of numerous nations by their armies [Isa 36:18-21](#); the siege of Jerusalem itself [Isa 36:2](#); the confidence of Hezekiah and of his people in God when the city was besieged [Isa 37:14-20](#); and the final overthrow of the Assyrian host by the angel of the Lord [Isa 37:36](#), agree well with all the statements in the psalm, and seem well to "illustrate" the psalm, though it be impossible now to determine with precise accuracy to what particular historical occasion it has reference. The circumstances in that invasion, however, are so similar to those supposed in the psalm, that, perhaps, we shall not be likely to err in supposing that the psalm "had" reference to that occasion.

- **Barnes Notes on the O.T.**

[2 Chronicles 28 -32](#)

Ahaz Reigns in Judah

1Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done, **2**but he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel. He even made metal images for the Baals, **3**and he made offerings in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom and burned his sons as an offering,^a according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. **4**And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree.

Judah Defeated

5Therefore the LORD his God gave him into the hand of the king of Syria, who defeated him and took captive a great number of his people and brought them to Damascus. He was also given into the hand of the king of Israel, who struck him with great force. **6**For Pekah the son of Remaliah killed 120,000 from Judah in one day, all of them men of valor, because they had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. **7**And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed Maaseiah the king's son and Azrikam the commander of the palace and Elkanah the next in authority to the king.

8The men of Israel took captive 200,000 of their relatives, women, sons, and daughters. They also took much spoil from them and brought the spoil to Samaria. **9**But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was Oded, and he went out to meet the army that came to Samaria and said to them, "Behold, because the LORD, the God of your fathers, was angry with Judah, he gave them into your hand, but you have killed them in a rage that has reached up to heaven. **10**And now you intend to subjugate the people of Judah and Jerusalem, male and female, as your slaves. Have you not sins of your own against the LORD your God? **11**Now hear me, and send back the captives from your relatives whom you have taken, for the fierce wrath of the LORD is upon you."

12Certain chiefs also of the men of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, stood up against those who were coming from the war **13**and said to them, "You shall not bring the captives in here, for you propose to bring upon us guilt against the LORD in addition to our present sins and guilt. For our guilt is already great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel." **14**So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the princes and all the assembly. **15**And the men who have been mentioned by name rose and took the captives, and with the spoil they clothed all who were naked among them. They clothed them, gave them sandals, provided them with food and drink, and anointed them, and carrying all the feeble among them on donkeys, they brought them to their kinsfolk at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria.

16At that time King Ahaz sent to the king^b of Assyria for help. **17**For the Edomites had again invaded and defeated Judah and carried away captives. **18**And the Philistines had made raids on the cities in the Shephelah and the Negeb of Judah, and had taken Bethshemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Soco with its villages, Timnah with its villages, and Gimzo with its villages. And they settled there. **19**For the LORD humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had made Judah act sinfully^c and had been very unfaithful to the LORD. **20**So Tiglath-pileser^d king of Assyria came against him and afflicted him instead of strengthening him. **21**For Ahaz took a portion from the house of the LORD and the house

of the king and of the princes, and gave tribute to the king of Assyria, but it did not help him.

Ahaz's Idolatry

[22](#)In the time of his distress he became yet more faithless to the LORD—this same King Ahaz. [23](#)For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus that had defeated him and said, “Because the gods of the kings of Syria helped them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me.” But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel. [24](#)And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and he shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and he made himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem. [25](#)In every city of Judah he made high places to make offerings to other gods, provoking to anger the LORD, the God of his fathers. [26](#)Now the rest of his acts and all his ways, from first to last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. [27](#)And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, in Jerusalem, for they did not bring him into the tombs of the kings of Israel. And Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

Footnotes:

a 3 Hebrew *made his sons pass through the fire*

b 16 Septuagint, Syriac, Vulgate (compare 2 Kings 16:7); Hebrew *kings*

c 19 Or *wildly*

d 20 Hebrew *Tilgath-pilneser*

Hezekiah Reigns in Judah

[1](#)Hezekiah began to reign when he was twenty-five years old, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah^a the daughter of Zechariah. [2](#)And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done.

Hezekiah Cleanses the Temple

[3](#)In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them. [4](#)He brought in the priests and the Levites and assembled them in the square on the east [5](#)and said to them, “Hear me, Levites! Now consecrate yourselves, and consecrate the house of the LORD, the God of your fathers, and carry out the filth^b from the Holy Place. [6](#)For our fathers have been unfaithful and have done what was evil in the sight of the LORD our God. They have forsaken him and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD and turned their backs. [7](#)They also shut the doors of the vestibule and put out the lamps and have not burned incense or offered burnt offerings in the Holy Place to the God of Israel. [8](#)Therefore the wrath of the LORD came on Judah and Jerusalem, and he has made them an object of horror, of astonishment, and of hissing, as you see with your own eyes. [9](#)For behold, our fathers have fallen by the

sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are in captivity for this. [10](#)Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, in order that his fierce anger may turn away from us. [11](#)My sons, do not now be negligent, for the LORD has chosen you to stand in his presence, to minister to him and to be his ministers and make offerings to him.”

[12](#)Then the Levites arose, Mahath the son of Amasai, and Joel the son of Azariah, of the sons of the Kohathites; and of the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi, and Azariah the son of Jehallelel; and of the Gershonites, Joah the son of Zimmah, and Eden the son of Joah; [13](#)and of the sons of Elizaphan, Shimri and Jeuel; and of the sons of Asaph, Zechariah and Mattaniah; [14](#)and of the sons of Heman, Jehuel and Shimei; and of the sons of Jeduthun, Shemaiah and Uzziel. [15](#)They gathered their brothers and consecrated themselves and went in as the king had commanded, by the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD. [16](#)The priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD to cleanse it, and they brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of the LORD into the court of the house of the LORD. And the Levites took it and carried it out to the brook Kidron. [17](#)They began to consecrate on the first day of the first month, and on the eighth day of the month they came to the vestibule of the LORD. Then for eight days they consecrated the house of the LORD, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished. [18](#)Then they went in to Hezekiah the king and said, “We have cleansed all the house of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the table for the showbread and all its utensils. [19](#)All the utensils that King Ahaz discarded in his reign when he was faithless, we have made ready and consecrated, and behold, they are before the altar of the LORD.”

Hezekiah Restores Temple Worship

[20](#)Then Hezekiah the king rose early and gathered the officials of the city and went up to the house of the LORD. [21](#)And they brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats for a sin offering for the kingdom and for the sanctuary and for Judah. And he commanded the priests, the sons of Aaron, to offer them on the altar of the LORD. [22](#)So they slaughtered the bulls, and the priests received the blood and threw it against the altar. And they slaughtered the rams, and their blood was thrown against the altar. And they slaughtered the lambs, and their blood was thrown against the altar. [23](#)Then the goats for the sin offering were brought to the king and the assembly, and they laid their hands on them, [24](#)and the priests slaughtered them and made a sin offering with their blood on the altar, to make atonement for all Israel. For the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel.

[25](#)And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king’s seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the LORD through his prophets. [26](#)The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. [27](#)Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song to the LORD began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel. [28](#)The whole assembly worshiped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded. All this continued until the burnt offering was finished. [29](#)When the offering was finished, the king and all who were present with him

bowed themselves and worshiped. [30](#)And Hezekiah the king and the officials commanded the Levites to sing praises to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped.

[31](#)Then Hezekiah said, “You have now consecrated yourselves to^e the LORD. Come near; bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of the LORD.” And the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all who were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings. [32](#)The number of the burnt offerings that the assembly brought was 70 bulls, 100 rams, and 200 lambs; all these were for a burnt offering to the LORD. [33](#)And the consecrated offerings were 600 bulls and 3,000 sheep. [34](#)But the priests were too few and could not flay all the burnt offerings, so until other priests had consecrated themselves, their brothers the Levites helped them, until the work was finished—for the Levites were more upright in heart than the priests in consecrating themselves. [35](#)Besides the great number of burnt offerings, there was the fat of the peace offerings, and there were the drink offerings for the burnt offerings. Thus the service of the house of the LORD was restored. [36](#)And Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced because God had provided for the people, for the thing came about suddenly.

Footnotes:

a 1 Spelled *Abi* in 2 Kings 18:2

b 5 Hebrew *impurity*

c 31 Hebrew *filled your hand for*

Passover Celebrated

[1](#)Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem to keep the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel. [2](#)For the king and his princes and all the assembly in Jerusalem had taken counsel to keep the Passover in the second month— [3](#)for they could not keep it at that time because the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient number, nor had the people assembled in Jerusalem— [4](#)and the plan seemed right to the king and all the assembly. [5](#)So they decreed to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that the people should come and keep the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel, at Jerusalem, for they had not kept it as often as prescribed. [6](#)So couriers went throughout all Israel and Judah with letters from the king and his princes, as the king had commanded, saying, “O people of Israel, return to the LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, that he may turn again to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. [7](#)Do not be like your fathers and your brothers, who were faithless to the LORD God of their fathers, so that he made them a desolation, as you see. [8](#)Do not now be stiff-necked as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD and come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever, and serve the LORD your God, that his fierce anger may turn away

from you. **9**For if you return to the LORD, your brothers and your children will find compassion with their captors and return to this land. For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him.”

10So the couriers went from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulun, but they laughed them to scorn and mocked them. **11**However, some men of Asher, of Manasseh, and of Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. **12**The hand of God was also on Judah to give them one heart to do what the king and the princes commanded by the word of the LORD.

13And many people came together in Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month, a very great assembly. **14**They set to work and removed the altars that were in Jerusalem, and all the altars for burning incense they took away and threw into the brook Kidron. **15**And they slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. And the priests and the Levites were ashamed, so that they consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings into the house of the LORD. **16**They took their accustomed posts according to the Law of Moses the man of God. The priests threw the blood that they received from the hand of the Levites. **17**For there were many in the assembly who had not consecrated themselves. Therefore the Levites had to slaughter the Passover lamb for everyone who was not clean, to consecrate it to the LORD. **18**For a majority of the people, many of them from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover otherwise than as prescribed. For Hezekiah had prayed for them, saying, “May the good LORD pardon everyone **19**who sets his heart to seek God, the LORD, the God of his fathers, even though not according to the sanctuary’s rules of cleanness.”^a **20**And the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people. **21**And the people of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with great gladness, and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, singing with all their might^b to the LORD. **22**And Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites who showed good skill in the service of the LORD. So they ate the food of the festival for seven days, sacrificing peace offerings and giving thanks to the LORD, the God of their fathers.

23Then the whole assembly agreed together to keep the feast for another seven days. So they kept it for another seven days with gladness. **24**For Hezekiah king of Judah gave the assembly 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep for offerings, and the princes gave the assembly 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep. And the priests consecrated themselves in great numbers. **25**The whole assembly of Judah, and the priests and the Levites, and the whole assembly that came out of Israel, and the sojourners who came out of the land of Israel, and the sojourners who lived in Judah, rejoiced. **26**So there was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. **27**Then the priests and the Levites arose and blessed the people, and their voice was heard, and their prayer came to his holy habitation in heaven.

Footnotes:

a 19 Hebrew *not according to the cleanness of holiness*

b 21 Compare 1 Chronicles 13:8; Hebrew *with instruments of might*

Hezekiah Organizes the Priests

1Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah and broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim and broke down the high places and the altars throughout all Judah and Benjamin, and in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had destroyed them all. Then all the people of Israel returned to their cities, every man to his possession.

2And Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and of the Levites, division by division, each according to his service, the priests and the Levites, for burnt offerings and peace offerings, to minister in the gates of the camp of the LORD and to give thanks and praise. **3**The contribution of the king from his own possessions was for the burnt offerings: the burnt offerings of morning and evening, and the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, the new moons, and the appointed feasts, as it is written in the Law of the LORD. **4**And he commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests and the Levites, that they might give themselves to the Law of the LORD. **5**As soon as the command was spread abroad, the people of Israel gave in abundance the firstfruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field. And they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. **6**And the people of Israel and Judah who lived in the cities of Judah also brought in the tithe of cattle and sheep, and the tithe of the dedicated things that had been dedicated to the LORD their God, and laid them in heaps. **7**In the third month they began to pile up the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month. **8**When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD and his people Israel. **9**And Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites about the heaps. **10**Azariah the chief priest, who was of the house of Zadok, answered him, "Since they began to bring the contributions into the house of the LORD, we have eaten and had enough and have plenty left, for the LORD has blessed his people, so that we have this large amount left."

11Then Hezekiah commanded them to prepare chambers in the house of the LORD, and they prepared them. **12**And they faithfully brought in the contributions, the tithes, and the dedicated things. The chief officer in charge of them was Conaniah the Levite, with Shimei his brother as second, **13**while Jehiel, Azariah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath, and Benaiah were overseers assisting Conaniah and Shimei his brother, by the appointment of Hezekiah the king and Azariah the chief officer of the house of God. **14**And Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, keeper of the east gate, was over the freewill offerings to God, to apportion the contribution reserved for the LORD and the most holy offerings. **15**Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah were faithfully assisting him in the cities of the priests, to distribute the portions to their brothers, old and young alike, by divisions, **16**except those enrolled by genealogy, males from three years old and upward—all who entered the house of the LORD as the duty of each day required—for their service according to their offices, by their divisions. **17**The enrollment of the priests was according to their fathers' houses; that of the Levites from twenty years old and upward was according to their offices, by their divisions. **18**They were enrolled with all their little children, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, the whole assembly, for they were faithful in keeping themselves holy. **19**And for the sons of Aaron, the priests, who were in the fields of common land belonging to

their cities, there were men in the several cities who were designated by name to distribute portions to every male among the priests and to everyone among the Levites who was enrolled.

[20](#) Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God. [21](#) And every work that he undertook in the service of the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God, he did with all his heart, and prospered.

Sennacherib Invades Judah

[1](#) After these things and these acts of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah and encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them for himself. [2](#) And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem, [3](#) he planned with his officers and his mighty men to stop the water of the springs that were outside the city; and they helped him. [4](#) A great many people were gathered, and they stopped all the springs and the brook that flowed through the land, saying, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?" [5](#) He set to work resolutely and built up all the wall that was broken down and raised towers upon it,^a and outside it he built another wall, and he strengthened the Millo in the city of David. He also made weapons and shields in abundance. [6](#) And he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying, [7](#) "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. [8](#) With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

Sennacherib Blasphemes

[9](#) After this, Sennacherib king of Assyria, who was besieging Lachish with all his forces, sent his servants to Jerusalem to Hezekiah king of Judah and to all the people of Judah who were in Jerusalem, saying, [10](#) "Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria, 'On what are you trusting, that you endure the siege in Jerusalem? [11](#) Is not Hezekiah misleading you, that he may give you over to die by famine and by thirst, when he tells you, "The LORD our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria"? [12](#) Has not this same Hezekiah taken away his high places and his altars and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, "Before one altar you shall worship, and on it you shall burn your sacrifices"? [13](#) Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of other lands? Were the gods of the nations of those lands at all able to deliver their lands out of my hand? [14](#) Who among all the gods of those nations that my fathers devoted to destruction was able to deliver his people from my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you from my hand? [15](#) Now, therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or mislead you in this fashion, and do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or from the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you out of my hand!"

[16](#)And his servants said still more against the LORD God and against his servant Hezekiah. [17](#)And he wrote letters to cast contempt on the LORD, the God of Israel, and to speak against him, saying, “Like the gods of the nations of the lands who have not delivered their people from my hands, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver his people from my hand.” [18](#)And they shouted it with a loud voice in the language of Judah to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to frighten and terrify them, in order that they might take the city. [19](#)And they spoke of the God of Jerusalem as they spoke of the gods of the peoples of the earth, which are the work of men’s hands.

The LORD Delivers Jerusalem

[20](#)Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven. [21](#)And the LORD sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he came into the house of his god, some of his own sons struck him down there with the sword. [22](#)So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all his enemies, and he provided for them on every side. [23](#)And many brought gifts to the LORD to Jerusalem and precious things to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations from that time onward.

Hezekiah’s Pride and Achievements

[24](#)In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death, and he prayed to the LORD, and he answered him and gave him a sign. [25](#)But Hezekiah did not make return according to the benefit done to him, for his heart was proud. Therefore wrath came upon him and Judah and Jerusalem. [26](#)But Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

[27](#)And Hezekiah had very great riches and honor, and he made for himself treasuries for silver, for gold, for precious stones, for spices, for shields, and for all kinds of costly vessels; [28](#)storehouses also for the yield of grain, wine, and oil; and stalls for all kinds of cattle, and sheepfolds. [29](#)He likewise provided cities for himself, and flocks and herds in abundance, for God had given him very great possessions. [30](#)This same Hezekiah closed the upper outlet of the waters of Gihon and directed them down to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works. [31](#)And so in the matter of the envoys of the princes of Babylon, who had been sent to him to inquire about the sign that had been done in the land, God left him to himself, in order to test him and to know all that was in his heart.

[32](#)Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah and his good deeds, behold, they are written in the vision of Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel. [33](#)And Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the upper part of the tombs of the sons of David, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem did him honor at his death. And Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

2 Kings 18-20

Hezekiah Reigns in Judah

1In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. **2**He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. **3**And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done. **4**He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan).^a **5**He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him. **6**For he held fast to the LORD. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the LORD commanded Moses. **7**And the LORD was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him. **8**He struck down the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

9In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it, **10**and at the end of three years he took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken. **11**The king of Assyria carried the Israelites away to Assyria and put them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes, **12**because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God but transgressed his covenant, even all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded. They neither listened nor obeyed.

Sennacherib Attacks Judah

13In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. **14**And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; withdraw from me. Whatever you impose on me I will bear." And the king of Assyria required of Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents^b of silver and thirty talents of gold. **15**And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house. **16**At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD and from the doorposts that Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid and gave it to the king of Assyria. **17**And the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rab-saris, and the Rabshakeh with a great army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they arrived, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is on the highway to the Washer's Field. **18**And when they called for the king, there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder.

19And the Rabshakeh said to them, “Say to Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours? **20**Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom do you now trust, that you have rebelled against me? **21**Behold, you are trusting now in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him. **22**But if you say to me, “We trust in the LORD our God,” is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, “You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem”? **23**Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them. **24**How then can you repulse a single captain among the least of my master’s servants, when you trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? **25**Moreover, is it without the LORD that I have come up against this place to destroy it? The LORD said to me, “Go up against this land and destroy it.””

26Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and Shebna, and Joah, said to the Rabshakeh, “Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it. Do not speak to us in the language of Judah within the hearing of the people who are on the wall.” **27**But the Rabshakeh said to them, “Has my master sent me to speak these words to your master and to you, and not to the men sitting on the wall, who are doomed with you to eat their own dung and to drink their own urine?”

28Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah: “Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria! **29**Thus says the king: ‘Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you out of my^e hand. **30**Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD by saying, The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.’ **31**Do not listen to Hezekiah, for thus says the king of Assyria: ‘Make your peace with me^d and come out to me. Then each one of you will eat of his own vine, and each one of his own fig tree, and each one of you will drink the water of his own cistern, **32**until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey, that you may live, and not die. And do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you by saying, “The LORD will deliver us.” **33**Has any of the gods of the nations ever delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? **34**Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? **35**Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?”

36But the people were silent and answered him not a word, for the king’s command was, “Do not answer him.” **37**Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn and told him the words of the Rabshakeh.

Footnotes:

a 4 *Nehushtan* sounds like the Hebrew for both *bronze* and *serpent*

b 14 A *talent* was about 75 pounds or 34 kilograms

c 29 Hebrew *his*

d 31 Hebrew *Make a blessing with me*

Isaiah Reassures Hezekiah

1As soon as King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of the LORD. **2**And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz. **3**They said to him, “Thus says Hezekiah, This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. **4**It may be that the LORD your God heard all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the LORD your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.” **5**When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, **6**Isaiah said to them, “Say to your master, ‘Thus says the LORD: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me. **7**Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land, and I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.’”

Sennacherib Defies the LORD

8The Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he heard that the king had left Lachish. **9**Now the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Cush, “Behold, he has set out to fight against you.” So he sent messengers again to Hezekiah, saying, **10**“Thus shall you speak to Hezekiah king of Judah: ‘Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. **11**Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, devoting them to destruction. And shall you be delivered? **12**Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations that my fathers destroyed, Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? **13**Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, the king of Hena, or the king of Ivvah?’”

Hezekiah’s Prayer

14Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD and spread it before the LORD. **15**And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said: “O LORD, the God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. **16**Incline your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God. **17**Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands **18**and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods, but the work of men’s hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed. **19**So now, O LORD our God, save us, please, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O LORD, are God alone.”

Isaiah Prophesies Sennacherib’s Fall

[20](#) Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Your prayer to me about Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard. [21](#) This is the word that the LORD has spoken concerning him:

“She despises you, she scorns you—
the virgin daughter of Zion;
she wags her head behind you—
the daughter of Jerusalem.

[22](#) “Whom have you mocked and reviled?
Against whom have you raised your voice
and lifted your eyes to the heights?
Against the Holy One of Israel!

[23](#) By your messengers you have mocked the Lord,
and you have said, ‘With my many chariots
I have gone up the heights of the mountains,
to the far recesses of Lebanon;
I felled its tallest cedars,
its choicest cypresses;
I entered its farthest lodging place,
its most fruitful forest.

[24](#) I dug wells
and drank foreign waters,
and I dried up with the sole of my foot
all the streams of Egypt.’

[25](#) “Have you not heard
that I determined it long ago?
I planned from days of old
what now I bring to pass,
that you should turn fortified cities
into heaps of ruins,

[26](#) while their inhabitants, shorn of strength,
are dismayed and confounded,
and have become like plants of the field
and like tender grass,
like grass on the housetops,
blighted before it is grown.

[27](#) “But I know your sitting down
and your going out and coming in,
and your raging against me.

[28](#) Because you have raged against me
and your complacency has come into my ears,
I will put my hook in your nose
and my bit in your mouth,

and I will turn you back on the way by which you came.

29“And this shall be the sign for you: this year eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs of the same. Then in the third year sow and reap and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. **30**And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward. **31**For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD will do this.

32“Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there, or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it. **33**By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the LORD. **34**For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.”

35And that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. **36**Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went home and lived at Nineveh. **37**And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him down with the sword and escaped into the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

Hezekiah's Illness and Recovery

1In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die; you shall not recover.’” **2**Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, saying, **3**“Now, O LORD, please remember how I have walked before you in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly. **4**And before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him: **5**“Turn back, and say to Hezekiah the leader of my people, Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD, **6**and I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city for my own sake and for my servant David's sake.” **7**And Isaiah said, “Bring a cake of figs. And let them take and lay it on the boil, that he may recover.”

8And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the LORD on the third day?” **9**And Isaiah said, “This shall be the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he has promised: shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or go back ten steps?” **10**And Hezekiah answered, “It is an easy thing for the shadow to lengthen ten steps. Rather let the shadow go back

ten steps.” [11](#)And Isaiah the prophet called to the LORD, and he brought the shadow back ten steps, by which it had gone down on the steps of Ahaz.

Hezekiah and the Babylonian Envoys

[12](#)At that time Merodach-baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent envoys with letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick. [13](#)And Hezekiah welcomed them, and he showed them all his treasure house, the silver, the gold, the spices, the precious oil, his armory, all that was found in his storehouses. There was nothing in his house or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them. [14](#)Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah, and said to him, “What did these men say? And from where did they come to you?” And Hezekiah said, “They have come from a far country, from Babylon.” [15](#)He said, “What have they seen in your house?” And Hezekiah answered, “They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing in my storehouses that I did not show them.”

[16](#)Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD: [17](#)Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the LORD. [18](#)And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.” [19](#)Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the LORD that you have spoken is good.” For he thought, “Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?”

[20](#)The rest of the deeds of Hezekiah and all his might and how he made the pool and the conduit and brought water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? [21](#)And Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

Isaiah 36-37

Sennacherib Invades Judah

[1](#)In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. [2](#)And the king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh^a from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem, with a great army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer’s Field. [3](#)And there came out to him Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder.

[4](#)And the Rabshakeh said to them, “Say to Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours? [5](#)Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom do you now trust, that you have rebelled against

me? **6**Behold, you are trusting in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him. **7**But if you say to me, “We trust in the LORD our God,” is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, “You shall worship before this altar”? **8**Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them. **9**How then can you repulse a single captain among the least of my master’s servants, when you trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? **10**Moreover, is it without the LORD that I have come up against this land to destroy it? The LORD said to me, “Go up against this land and destroy it.””

11Then Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, “Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it. Do not speak to us in the language of Judah within the hearing of the people who are on the wall.” **12**But the Rabshakeh said, “Has my master sent me to speak these words to your master and to you, and not to the men sitting on the wall, who are doomed with you to eat their own dung and drink their own urine?”

13Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah: “Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! **14**Thus says the king: ‘Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you. **15**Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD by saying, “The LORD will surely deliver us. This city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.” **16**Do not listen to Hezekiah. For thus says the king of Assyria: Make your peace with me^a and come out to me. Then each one of you will eat of his own vine, and each one of his own fig tree, and each one of you will drink the water of his own cistern, **17**until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. **18**Beware lest Hezekiah mislead you by saying, “The LORD will deliver us.” Has any of the gods of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? **19**Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? **20**Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?”

21But they were silent and answered him not a word, for the king’s command was, “Do not answer him.” **22**Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and told him the words of the Rabshakeh.

Footnotes:

a 2 Rabshakeh is the title of a high-ranking Assyrian military officer

b 16 Hebrew *Make a blessing with me*

Hezekiah Seeks Isaiah’s Help

1As soon as King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of the LORD. **2**And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz. **3**They said to him, “Thus says Hezekiah, ‘This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. **4**It may be that the LORD your God will hear the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the LORD your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.’”

5When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, **6**Isaiah said to them, “Say to your master, ‘Thus says the LORD: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the young men of the king of Assyria have reviled me. **7**Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land, and I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.’”

8The Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that the king had left Lachish. **9**Now the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Cush, **10**“He has set out to fight against you.” And when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, **11**“Thus shall you speak to Hezekiah king of Judah: ‘Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. **12**Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, devoting them to destruction. And shall you be delivered? **13**Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations that my fathers destroyed, Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? **14**Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, the king of Hena, or the king of Ivvah?’”

Hezekiah’s Prayer for Deliverance

15Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. **16**And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: **17**“O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. **18**Incline your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God. **19**Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands, **20**and have cast their gods into the fire. For they were no gods, but the work of men’s hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed. **21**So now, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone are the LORD.”

Sennacherib’s Fall

22Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, **23**this is the word that the LORD has spoken concerning him:

“She despises you, she scorns you—
the virgin daughter of Zion;
she wags her head behind you—
the daughter of Jerusalem.

23“Whom have you mocked and reviled?
Against whom have you raised your voice
and lifted your eyes to the heights?
Against the Holy One of Israel!

24By your servants you have mocked the Lord,
and you have said, With my many chariots
I have gone up the heights of the mountains,
to the far recesses of Lebanon,
to cut down its tallest cedars,
its choicest cypresses,
to come to its remotest height,
its most fruitful forest.

25I dug wells
and drank waters,
to dry up with the sole of my foot
all the streams of Egypt.

26“Have you not heard
that I determined it long ago?
I planned from days of old
what now I bring to pass,
that you should make fortified cities
crash into heaps of ruins,

27while their inhabitants, shorn of strength,
are dismayed and confounded,
and have become like plants of the field
and like tender grass,
like grass on the housetops,
blighted^b before it is grown.

28“I know your sitting down
and your going out and coming in,
and your raging against me.

29Because you have raged against me
and your complacency has come to my ears,
I will put my hook in your nose
and my bit in your mouth,
and I will turn you back on the way
by which you came.’

[30](#)“And this shall be the sign for you: this year you shall eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs from that. Then in the third year sow and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. [31](#)And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward. [32](#)For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

[33](#)“Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it. [34](#)By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the LORD. [35](#)For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.”

[36](#)And the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. [37](#)Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home and lived at Nineveh. [38](#)And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him down with the sword. And after they escaped into the land of Ararat, Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

Footnotes:

a 9 Probably *Nubia*

b 27 Some Hebrew manuscripts and 2 Kings 19:26; most Hebrew manuscripts *a field*

Who was King Ahaz in the Bible?

Question: "Who was King Ahaz in the Bible?"

Answer: Ahaz was an evil king of Judah who became king at the age of 20 and reigned for 4 years with his father, Jotham, from 735 to 731 BC, and 16 years on his own, from 731 to 715 BC. Second Kings 16 and 2 Chronicles 28 record King Ahaz's destructive practices, such as idol worship and sacrilege against the temple of the Lord. The actions of Ahaz contributed to the downfall of the kingdom of Judah, which the Lord brought about in 586 BC. Isaiah 7-10 speaks of the results and consequences of King Ahaz's wicked ways.

Ahaz's father, [King Jotham](#), was one of the good kings of Judah (2 Chronicles 27:2), so it is unclear why King Ahaz departed so completely from the teachings of the Lord. His repugnant deeds included sacrificing his own children, which was a great evil the kingdom of Israel had already been practicing (2 Kings 16:3; 2 Chronicles 28:3). King Ahaz also desecrated the temple as a result of his alliance with the king of Assyria, which came about in response to punishment God sent on Ahaz in the form of attacks on Ahaz's land.

King Rezin of [Aram](#) and [King Pekah](#) of Israel had besieged King Ahaz's lands, and, although they were not strong enough to defeat Ahaz, they did "inflict heavy casualties on him" (2 Chronicles 28:5). Not only were Ahaz's son Maaseiah and his second-in-command, Elkanah, killed, but over 100,000 soldiers were killed, and Judah's cities were plundered. Many Israelites who were living in Judah were taken captive (verses 6-8). Because of all this, Ahaz appealed to the king of Assyria, Tiglath-Pileser, for help in defeating Aram and Israel. Tiglath-Pileser complied and attacked Damascus, capturing the city and killing King Rezin.

When King Ahaz met the victorious king of Assyria in Damascus, he saw a pagan altar there he wanted to copy for his own use in Jerusalem. So he sent plans to his priest Uriah, who finished the altar before Ahaz came back from Damascus (2 Kings 16:11). Upon his return, King Ahaz made sacrifices on the altar to the gods of Damascus. He moved the altar of the Lord, and, although he still planned to use it for "guidance" (verse 15), Ahaz offered all the sacrifices on the new altar.

Ahaz's sacrilege did not end there. To impress the king of Assyria, he removed the royal entryway of the temple as well as the Sabbath canopy, and cut the temple furnishings into pieces (2 Kings 16:17-18; 2 Chronicles 28:24). After shutting the doors to the temple, he placed altars at all the street corners in Jerusalem and high places for worshipping false gods in every city in Judah (2 Chronicles 28:24-25).

The Bible is not clear on how Ahaz died, but it does say that, although he was buried with his ancestors in Jerusalem, he did not earn a place in the tombs of the kings of Israel (2 Kings 16:20; 2 Chronicles 28:27). His son Hezekiah reigned after him, and, fortunately, [King Hezekiah](#) "did what was right in the eyes of the LORD" (2 Chronicles 29:2). He reversed what his father had done to the temple, purifying it and again consecrating it for worship of the Lord (verses 3-36).

Recommended Resource: [The Great Lives from God's Word Series by Chuck Swindoll](#)

[HEZEKIAH](#)

Son and successor of Ahaz as king of Judah (716/15-687/86 B.C.) Hezekiah began his reign when he was twenty-five years old. **At this time in history, the nation of Assyria had risen to power. Hezekiah's reign can best be understood against the background of Assyria's military activities during the years Hezekiah served as king of Judah.**

When Ahaz succeeded Jotham as king of Judah, he began pro-Assyrian policies by making Judah a vassal to Assyria. Ahaz's political involvements with Assyria brought idolatry and paganism into the Temple (2 Kings 16:7-20).

Hezekiah began his reign by bringing religious reform to Judah. Hezekiah was not willing to court the favor of the Assyrian kings. The Temple in Jerusalem was reopened. The idols were removed from the Temple. Temple vessels that had been desecrated during Ahaz's reign were sanctified for use in the Temple. The sacrifices were initiated with singing and the sounds of musical instruments.

The tribes in the Northern Kingdom (Israel) had been subjected to Assyrian dominance. Hezekiah invited the Israelites to join in the celebration of the Passover in Jerusalem. Places of idol worship were destroyed. Hezekiah even destroyed the bronze serpent Moses had erected in the wilderness (Num. 21:4-9) so the people would not view the bronze serpent as an object of worship.

Hezekiah organized the priests and Levites for the conducting of religious services. The tithe was reinstated. Plans were made to observe the religious feasts called for in the Law.

In 711 B.C., just a few years after Hezekiah had become king, Sargon II of Assyria captured Ashdod. Hezekiah

anticipated the time when he would have to confront Assyrian armies.

Hezekiah fortified the city of Jerusalem and organized an army. Knowing that a source of water was crucial, Hezekiah constructed a tunnel through solid rock from the spring of Gihon to the Siloam pool. The city wall was extended to enclose this important source of water.

Isaiah warned Hezekiah not to become involved with Assyria (Isa. 20:1-6).

The critical time for Hezekiah came in 705 B.C. when Sennacherib became king of Assyria.

From Hezekiah, Sennacherib obtained a heavy tribute of silver and gold.

In 701 B.C., Hezekiah became seriously ill (Isa. 38:1-21). Isaiah warned the king to prepare for his approaching death, but Hezekiah prayed that God would intervene. God answered by promising Hezekiah fifteen more years of life and deliverance of Jerusalem from Assyria (Isa. 38:4-6).

In the meantime,

Sennacherib had besieged Lachish. Aware that Hezekiah had trusted God for deliverance, Sennacherib sent messengers to the Jerusalem wall to urge the people to surrender.

Sennacherib boasted of having conquered 46 walled cities and having taken 200,000 captives. Sennacherib's messengers taunted that God would not come to Judah's defense.

Hezekiah, dressed in sackcloth and ashes, went to the Temple to pray. He also called for Isaiah, the prophet. Isaiah announced that Sennacherib would "hear a rumor" and return to his own land where he would die by the sword (2 Kings 19:7).

Hezekiah's faith and physical recovery brought him recognition from the surrounding nations (2 Chron. 32:33).

The Babylonian leader, Merodachbaladan, even congratulated Hezekiah on his recovery.

Hezekiah hosted this Babylonian leader at a reception, but Isaiah met this event with a warning that succeeding generations would be subjected to Babylonian captivity (Isa. 39:1-8).

Sennacherib destroyed the city of Babylon in 689 B.C. He then marched toward Egypt. Hoping to ward off any interference from Judah, Sennacherib sent letters to Hezekiah ordering him to surrender (Isa. 37:9-38). Hezekiah took the letters to the Temple and prayed for God's help.

From Isaiah came the message that Sennacherib would not prevail. In fact, Sennacherib's army was destroyed in a miraculous way (2 Kings 19:35-37). In 681 B.C., Sennacherib was killed by two of his sons as had been predicted by

Isaiah in 701 B.C. Hezekiah died in 687/86 B.C. Manasseh, his son, succeeded him, although Manasseh had become co-regent with Hezekiah about 696 B.C.

The Gospel of Matthew lists Hezekiah in the genealogy of Jesus (Matt. 1:9-10).

- Gary Hardin
Holman Bible Dictionary.

Hezekiah – Godliness under Pressure!

By I Gordon: [Introduction](#)

Hezekiah was one good man! We saw a revival in Jerusalem as the hearts of Israel were once again turned back to the Lord their God through his “ministry.”

In 2 Chronicles 32 however, things begin to change! Opposition to Hezekiah is raised up and we see the full might of the Assyrian army come against our godly leader.

This study then is about godliness under pressure! While **taken mainly from 2 Chronicles 32,** we will delve into **2 Kings 18** now and then to obtain a more complete picture on what was happening.

Godliness brings opposition:

2 Chron 31:20-32:1 *This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah, doing what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God. **In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly.** And so he prospered. **After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah . He laid siege to the fortified cities, thinking to conquer them for himself.***

After these acts of faithfulness... what happens? He is invaded! Some would try and tell you that faithfulness leads to comfort and ease, while sin leads to trouble and strife. The word of God repeatedly tells us that ' everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted .' (2 Tim 3:12)

This is what we see with Hezekiah here. His godly stance led to opposition [1] . Satan doesn't like revival... He doesn't like people turning back to God. No surprises there, but thankfully He doesn't get the last word!

Hezekiah's first response... can anybody relate?

2 Kings 18:13-15 *In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. So Hezekiah king of Judah sent this message to the king of Assyria at Lachish: " **I have done wrong. Withdraw from me, and I will pay whatever you demand of me .**" The king of Assyria exacted from Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. So Hezekiah gave him **all the silver that was found in the temple of the LORD and in the treasuries of the royal palace.***

So the King of Assyria attacked the cities of Judah and captured them.

Only Jerusalem remained free from his hand.

Now the pressure was on!

In the passage above we read of **Hezekiah's first response...** and I don't think I'm being too unkind to Hezekiah to say that **he freaked!** There is no doubt that he was a godly man, but what we see in his initial response is something very common to all of us. That is, **when faced with trouble we immediately try and work out how we can get ourselves out of it through our own initiative!**

And as we see here, it usually doesn't even involve God. **It is a natural, fallen creation response**; not that of someone spiritual.

Hezekiah thought he could buy himself out of this pickle and was even willing give the gold and silver from the Lord's temple to do it! It didn't work... it never does.

Are your walls of salvation ready?

2 Chron 32:2-5 *When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he intended to make war on Jerusalem, he consulted with his officials and military staff about blocking off the water from the springs outside the city, and they helped him. **Then he worked hard repairing all the broken sections of the wall and building towers** on it. He built another wall outside that one and reinforced the supporting terraces of the City of David. He also made large numbers of weapons and shields.*

Faced with the fact that the enemy cannot be bought off, Hezekiah begins to focus his attention on their defense.

There were new walls to be erected and broken sections to be repaired. Towers were constructed, and weapons and shields were made. While Hezekiah may still have been thinking in the natural, there is considerable spiritual relevance in these verses for us.

The Bible shows that the walls around Jerusalem are a type of the strength of our salvation. The name of the Lord is our high tower; the word of the Lord our sword, and faith in Jesus our shield. [2]

But **notice that there were areas of the wall that needed repair.**

Also, weapons and shields had to be made. Now, I'm no military expert, but I do enjoy cowboy movies and I've come to the conclusion that **it is better to have these things in place before the enemy attacks!** But are we any different? What I mean is, often...

when things are easy and going well, there is a tendency to let things slide a little... The closeness of our daily relationship with God can suffer.

Quiet times with God can slip. It seems to be human nature.

**But when the King of Assyria assaults us...
boy, watch us move to rebuild those walls then!**

We call on the Lord, consume our Bibles, double our quiet times... oh dear, do things never change? Call me old fashioned if you must, but it still seems better to have the armour and defence ready BEFORE the enemy attacks!

The leader doing what a leader should

2 Chron 32:6-8 He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them before him in the square at the city gate and encouraged them with these words: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles."
And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.

Finally, we start seeing the strength that was within Hezekiah! Awesome words in the midst of extreme difficulty that show his dependency upon God.

**Hopelessly outnumbered in the natural,
yet confident in the Lord!**

The passage above says that he encouraged his people with his words. It also says that the people 'gained confidence' from what Hezekiah said.

The NASB says the 'people relied on the words of Hezekiah'. Do you know someone right now in the midst of difficulty? Do you know that you can impart faith through the words of truth you speak to them? Isn't it awesome that frightened people can 'gain confidence' through what you say? And what was it that Hezekiah said? Well, it was a truth as old as creation itself. The message of faith that never changes! [4] 'They rely on their own strength, we rely on the Lord' Hezekiah said. 'And, unless you have any doubts, greater is He that is with us. Take courage for the Lord will fight for us!' No wonder the people gained confidence!

The Hiss of the Serpent

2 Chron 32:9-14 *Later, when Sennacherib king of Assyria and all his forces were laying siege to Lachish, he sent his officers to Jerusalem with this message for Hezekiah king of Judah and for all the people of Judah who were there: "This is what Sennacherib king of Assyria says: **On what are you basing your confidence, that you remain in Jerusalem under siege? When Hezekiah says, 'The LORD our God will save us from the hand of the king of Assyria ,'** he is misleading you , to let you die of hunger and thirst.... "Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the*

*peoples of the other lands? Were the gods of those nations ever able to deliver their land from my hand? Who of all the gods of these nations that my fathers destroyed has been able to save his people from me? **How then can your god deliver you from my hand?***

Did you hear it? Are your ears open?

Can you not just hear the hiss of the serpent when you read the words of Sennacherib, King of Assyria?

Look at all the doubt that he tries to instill in Hezekiah's people. Look also at the attention that he tries to draw towards his own strength and the open mockery of Hezekiah's God.

Sennacherib may have sent the message but I have no doubt that the Serpent was whispering in his ear as he wrote! **This passage illustrates quite clearly how the enemy operates in trying to discourage God's people in the midst of a difficulty.**

He will do anything to get people's thoughts off how mighty God is, and onto the trouble at hand. He wants them to operate by sight, not by faith.

'How can your God deliver you from my hand' Sennacherib proudly boasts! 'No nation or gods have been able to stop me! That which you have feared will come upon you!' Nothing really changes. Circumstances, and God's people may change, but the doubts and accusations proceeding from the mouth of the enemy sure don't!

2 Chron 32:15-19 Now do not let Hezekiah deceive you and mislead you like this. Do not believe him, for no god of any

nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or the hand of my fathers. How much less will your god deliver you from my hand!” ... Then they called out in Hebrew to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to terrify them and make them afraid in order to capture the city. They spoke about the God of Jerusalem as they did about the gods of the other peoples of the world—the work of men’s hands.

And so the dribble continues... what is interesting is that **God has recorded these words of Sennacherib in three separates places in His word (2 Chron 32, 2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36)** so it must be important.

Look also at the reason that the enemy spoke to Hezekiah’s men guarding the wall – it says that the King of Assyria wanted to terrify them in order to capture the city.

Great fear has a way of doing that! **Fear and worry are always the result of dwelling on the difficulty of the situation at hand.** But faith is stronger than fear. The men on the wall did well to keep their mouths shut and not dwell on the enemy’s words. In fact, Hezekiah specifically told them, as is recorded in 2 Kings 18:26 *‘But the people remained silent and said nothing in reply, because the king had commanded, “Do not answer him.”*

Good sound advice that... In fact if Eve had followed this, things may be slightly different today! [\[5\]](#)

The Prayers of a Dynamic Duo!

2 Chron 32:20-21 **King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer** to heaven about this. And the LORD sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the leaders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons cut him down with the sword.

Backed into a corner, with the whole Assyrian army bearing down upon them, King Hezekiah and the Prophet Isaiah cried out to the Lord in prayer. While **the prayer is not recorded in** 2nd Chronicles, thankfully **2 Kings 19** does.

Have a read of a prayer from a man who knows His God.

2 Kings 19:14-19

Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. **Then he went up to the temple of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD .** And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: **“O LORD, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Give ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to insult the living God. “It is true, O LORD, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands. They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only**

wood and stone, fashioned by men's hands. Now, O LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O LORD, are God .”

Now I really like that! **See how Hezekiah took the enemies letter and spread it out before the Lord in the temple... It's a simple act of faith that shows that Hezekiah's problems soon became God's problems!**

And I love his prayer because it is so very simple. In fact, the note in my [Ryrie Study Bible calls it a 'childlike prayer'](#).

Notice how Hezekiah doesn't ask for deliverance for his, or even Israel's sake. He doesn't claim that he has been insulted or wronged. He doesn't remind God of any righteousness of his own. He simply places the entire situation firmly in God's lap!

This is why I said at the start that it is a prayer of a man who truly knew God. **It is the living God that is being insulted Hezekiah says, and if there is to be any deliverance it is so that God may again be glorified.**

It is so that the nations may see that the God of Israel is the true God.

And God was pleased to answer such a prayer.

How could He not? If you read further **in 2 Kings 19 you will see that the Lord sent word through Isaiah His prophet that He would deliver them, and deliver them He did!**

While it is a separate topic from this study, see the footnotes for some comments concerning the latter days of Hezekiah's reign. [6]

Conclusion

This study on Hezekiah has been a study of godliness under pressure!

Under attack and facing extreme pressure, Hezekiah was still able to receive deliverance and strength from the Lord in his time of need. We can learn from him! It is doubtful that the King of Assyria himself is going to come against your house, but trials and difficulties certainly will! May we also, like Hezekiah, display godliness under pressure, as we learn to take the Lord as our strength.

[1]  We see very similar responses from the enemy here as we did in the book of Nehemiah. When Hezekiah first started drawing the people back to God it says that his messengers were 'laughed to scorn and mocked. (2 Chron 30:10) Now we see that he is being physically attacked by the King of Assyria! If you have read Nehemiah you will remember that when Nehemiah started rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem the enemy first tried mockery and discouragement (Neh 4:1-6) and when that was less than successful, they conspired to attack and kill Nehemiah and his men. (Neh 4:7-12) Exactly what we see here!

[2]  See [Isaiah 60:18](#), [Prov 25:28](#), [Prov 18:10-11](#), [Psalm 144:1-2](#), [Eph 6:13-18](#). I really like the contrast in [Proverbs 18:10-11](#) **'The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it an unscalable wall.'**

Those that know God put their hope in Him. The rich put their hope in money. They imagine it to be an unscalable wall! What a joke. No, the Lord is our wall, our strong tower. With this in mind we should be careful to do as [Psalm 48:12,13](#) says ***'Walk around Zion...Count her towers... consider her ramparts... for such is God, our God, forever and ever.'*** We aren't surrounded by a physical wall or city. But we do have spiritual protection in the Lord our God and we should do as scripture says and consider how great our protector is!

[3] [🔗](#) In the second part of Pilgrims Progress, when Christiana is travelling to the Celestial City, she came to the Princes Arbour at the top of the Hill of Difficulty. Now this was a place to rest after the Hill of Difficulty and was obviously built and placed there by the Lord. But resting too long, she forgot and left her bottle there just as Christian before her had lost his book there. Great Heart, who was Christiana's guide, said 'Some sleep when they should stay awake, and some forget when they should remember. This is the exact cause why often at the resting places some Pilgrims, in some things, come away losers. During their times of enjoyment, Pilgrims should watch and remember what they've already received.' So it seems that even times of rest can become a snare for unaware Pilgrims. Rest but don't fall asleep!

[4] [🔗](#) What Hezekiah said in this passage is timeless! It is the exact same message Joshua and Caleb gave to a frightened Israel on the threshold of entering the Promised Land. (**Num 14:9**) It is the same message David gave when faced with Goliath. (**1 Sam 17:45-47**). It is the same message Nehemiah gave his people when they were attacked while rebuilding the walls (Neh 4:14). And it is the same message the Apostle John gives us in the New Testament saying that 'greater is He who is in you, than he who is in the world.' (**1 John 4:4**)

[5] [🔗](#) The bottom line, as **Christian found out in Pilgrims Progress, is that the path to the Celestial City (Heaven) runs right through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, the Hill of Difficulty, the Valley of Humiliation, and often very close to doubting castle and giant despair! Each place has different difficulties of its own. How important it is then to live by faith!** You may waver between faith and fear - don't we all? But in the end may you

come back to, focus upon, and take strength from, Hezekiah's words – *'there is a greater power with us than with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles.'*

[6]  After this great victory that the Lord gave to Hezekiah, we read 'many brought offerings to Jerusalem for the LORD and valuable gifts for Hezekiah king of Judah . From then on he was highly regarded by all the nations.' (vs 23) So, to state the obvious, **Hezekiah was highly regarded among the nations. They brought him valuable gifts. But was the Lord highly regarded as well? Did He get ALL the credit for the wonderful deliverance that He had given Hezekiah? Because there is no doubting that this victory was 100% God's doing. The passage does say that the nations brought offerings for the Lord at Jerusalem as well so that is good, but I have a sneaky suspicion that Hezekiah took more of the credit than he should have.**

Why do I say this? Well, you don't have to be Einstein to figure it out because the very next verse says as much.

'In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. He prayed to the LORD, who answered him and gave him a miraculous sign.

But Hezekiah's heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him...'

How careful we have to be! How wicked is the sinful nature that dwells within us?

Even after the Lord has graciously given us deliverance and victory, the pride of our own heart would have us believe we played a great and important role in it! Foolish fallen humanity! Hezekiah was obviously human after all and prone to the same pride that we are.

How good it is to read...

'Then Hezekiah repented of the pride of his heart, as did the people of Jerusalem ; therefore the LORD's wrath did not come upon them during the days of Hezekiah.'

So, I guess the moral of the story is spelled out for us through this New Testament scripture –

'What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?'

1 Corinthians 4:7

So let us give glory where glory should be... with God!

Who was Hezekiah in the Bible?

Question: "Who was Hezekiah in the Bible?"

Answer: Hezekiah was one of the few [kings of Judah](#) who was constantly aware of God's acts in the past and His involvement in the events of every day. The Bible describes Hezekiah as a king who had a close relationship with God, one who did "what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God" ([2 Chronicles 31:20](#)).

Hezekiah's story is told in 2 Kings 16:20–20:21; 2 Chronicles 28:27–32:33; and Isaiah 36:1–39:8. He is also mentioned in Proverbs 25:1; Isaiah 1:1; Jeremiah 15:4; 26:18-19; Hosea 1:1; and Micah 1:1.

Hezekiah, a son of the wicked King Ahaz, reigned over the southern kingdom of Judah for twenty-nine years, from c. 715 to 686 BC. He began his reign at age 25 (2 Kings 18:2). He was more zealous for the Lord than any of his predecessors (2 Kings 18:5).

During his reign, the prophets Isaiah and Micah ministered in Judah.

After Ahaz's wicked reign, there was much work to do, and Hezekiah boldly cleaned house. Pagan altars, idols, and temples were destroyed. The bronze serpent that Moses had made in the desert (Numbers 21:9) was also destroyed, because the people had made it an idol (2 Kings 18:4).

The temple in Jerusalem, whose doors had been nailed shut by Hezekiah's own father, was cleaned out and reopened.

The Levitical priesthood was reinstated (2 Chronicles 29:5), and the Passover was reinstated as a national holiday (2 Chronicles 30:1).

Under Hezekiah's reforms, revival came to Judah.

Because King Hezekiah put God first in everything he did, God prospered him.

Hezekiah *“held fast to the Lord and did not stop following him; he kept the commands the Lord had given Moses. And the Lord was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook”* (2 Kings 18:6-7).

In 701 BC, Hezekiah and all of Judah faced a crisis. The Assyrians, the dominant world power at the time, invaded Judah and marched against Jerusalem. The Assyrians had already conquered the northern kingdom of Israel and many other nations, and now they threatened Judah (2 Kings 18:13).

In their threats against the city of Jerusalem, the Assyrians openly defied the God of Judah, likening Him to the powerless gods of the nations they had conquered (2 Kings 18:28-35; 19:10-12).

Faced with the Assyrian threat, Hezekiah sent word to the prophet Isaiah (2 Kings 19:2). The Lord, through Isaiah, reassured the king that Assyria would never enter Jerusalem.

Rather, the invaders would be sent home, and the city of Jerusalem would be spared (2 Kings 19:32-34).

In the temple, Hezekiah prays a beautiful prayer for help, asking God to vindicate Himself: *“Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, Lord, are God”* (2 Kings 19:19).

God, faithful as always, kept His promise to protect Jerusalem.

“That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies!” (2 Kings 19:35).

The remaining Assyrians quickly broke camp and withdrew in abject defeat.

“So the Lord saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem. . . . He took care of them on every side” (2 Chronicles 32:22).

Later, Hezekiah became very sick. Isaiah told him to set things in order and prepare to die ([2 Kings 20:1](#)). But Hezekiah prayed, beseeching God to be merciful and to remember all the good he had done. Before Isaiah had even left the king's house, God told Isaiah to tell Hezekiah that his prayer had been heard and that his life would be extended fifteen years. Isaiah applied a poultice, and Hezekiah was healed ([2 Kings 20:5-7](#)).

However, **soon after his healing, Hezekiah made a serious mistake.**

The Babylonians sent a gift to Hezekiah, for they had heard Hezekiah had been sick.

In foolish pride, Hezekiah showed the Babylonians all of his treasures, all the silver and gold, and everything in his arsenal. There was nothing Hezekiah did not parade in front of them. Isaiah rebuked Hezekiah for this act and prophesied that all the king had shown the Babylonians would one day be taken to Babylon—along with Hezekiah's own descendants.

During the years following his illness, Hezekiah fathered the heir to Judah's throne, [Manasseh](#), who would turn out to be the evilest king ever to

reign in Judah (2 Kings 18–20; 2 Chronicles 29–32; Isaiah 36–39).

Tradition has it that Manasseh is the one who murdered Hezekiah's friend, Isaiah.

Hezekiah's life is, for the most part, a model of faithfulness and trust in the Lord. His faith was more than superficial, as his bold reforms show.

Hezekiah's trust in the Lord was rewarded with answered prayer, successful endeavors, and miraculous victory over his enemies.

When faced with an impossible situation, surrounded by the dreadful and determined Assyrian army, Hezekiah did exactly the right thing—he prayed.

And God answered.

Recommended Resource: [The Great Lives from God's Word Series by Chuck Swindoll](#)

SMITH's Bible Dictionary:

Hezekiah

(the might of Jehovah).

1. Twelfth king of Judah, son of the apostate Ahaz and Abi or Abijah, ascended the throne at the age of 25, B.C. 726. Hezekiah was one of the three most perfect kings of Judah. ([2 Kings 18:5](#)) Ecclus. 49:4. His first act was to purge and repair and reopen with splendid sacrifices and perfect ceremonial the temple. He also destroyed a brazen serpent, said to have been the one used by Moses in the miraculous healing of the Israelites, ([Numbers 21:9](#)) which had become an object of adoration. When the kingdom of Israel had fallen, Hezekiah invited the scattered inhabitants to a peculiar passover, which was continued for the unprecedented period of fourteen days. ([2 Chronicles 29:30,31](#))

At the head of a repentant and united people, Hezekiah ventured to assume the aggressive against the Philistines and in a series of victories not only rewon the cities which his father had lost, ([2 Chronicles 28:18](#)) but even dispossessed them of their own cities except Gaza, ([2 Kings 18:8](#)) and Gath. He refused to acknowledge the supremacy of Assyria. ([2 Kings 18:7](#))

Instant **war was imminent and Hezekiah used every available means to strengthen himself.**
([2 Kings 20:20](#))

It was probably at this dangerous crisis in his kingdom that we find him sick and sending for Isaiah, who prophesies death as the result. ([2 Kings 20:1](#)) Hezekiah's prayer for longer life is heard. The prophet had hardly left the palace when he was ordered to return and promise the king immediate recovery and fifteen years more of life. ([2 Kings 20:4](#))

An embassy coming from Babylon ostensibly to compliment Hezekiah on his convalescence, but really to form an alliance between the two powers, is favorably

received by the king, who shows them the treasures which he had accumulated.

For this Isaiah foretells the punishment that shall befall his house. ([2 Kings 20:17](#))

The two invasions of Sennacherib occupy the greater part of the scripture records concerning the reign of Hezekiah.

The first of these took place in the third year of Sennacherib, B.C. 702, and occupies only three verses. ([2 Kings 18:13-16](#))

Respecting the commencement of the second invasion we have full details in ([2 Kings 18:17](#)) seq.; [2Chr 32:9](#) seq.; [Isai 36:1](#) ... Sennacherib sent against Jerusalem an army under two officers and his cupbearer, the orator Rabshakeh, with a blasphemous and insulting summons to surrender; but Isaiah assures the king he need not fear, promising to disperse the enemy. ([2 Kings 19:6,7](#))

Accordingly that night "the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred fourscore and five thousand." Hezekiah only lived to enjoy for about one year more his well-earned peace and glory.

He slept with his fathers after a reign of twenty-nine years, in the 56th year of his age, B.C. 697.

2. Son of Neariah, one of the descendants of the royal family of Judah. ([1 Chronicles 3:23](#))
3. The same name, though rendered in the Authorized Version [HIZKIAH](#), is found in ([Zephaniah 1:1](#))
4. Ater of Hezekiah. [[ATER](#)]

Hezekiah

- Hezekiah was the son of King Ahaz and Abijah, who was the daughter of the prophet Zechariah.
- He was 25 years old when he inherited the throne and reigned in Jerusalem for 29 years, from about 715 to 687 BCE.
- Hezekiah was one of four godly kings of Judah, the Southern Kingdom. The other good kings were Asa, Jehoshaphat, and Josiah.
- King Hezekiah of Judah was a friend of the prophet, Isaiah.
- In his first month in office, Hezekiah opened the temple gates (his father had closed them, thereby stopping all temple activities), meaning that, once again, the people would have access to God.

- He called the priests and Levites and ordered them to purify the defiled temple, to begin repairs on the temple, and to remove all the idols from the sanctuary.
- It took them 16 days just to clean up the temple.
- When the idols were removed, Hezekiah restored proper sacrifice and worship, according to the rule prescribed by David. (II Chron. sees Hezekiah as the reformer par excellence - a character like David and Solomon.)
- Hezekiah is credited with reinstating proper worship (including reinstatement of the Levitical musicians) and rededicating the temple, overturning many years of abuse by kings "who did evil in the eyes of the Lord" (including his own father, Ahaz).
- He not only renewed the covenant with the Lord, but also called upon the Levites to recommit themselves to the Lord and carefully spelled out their duties and responsibilities.
- So many people responded with free-will offerings for sacrifice that the priests were swamped and the Levites had to help.
- With activities at the temple back on track, Hezekiah turned to reunification and invited Ephraim and Manasseh to Jerusalem to participate in Passover. (It is likely that this was after the north had been conquered by Assyria in 722BCE. The call to return to the Lord surely resonated with many who believed their apostasy had led to their defeat.)
- He sent a letter to *all* of Ephraim and Judah, inviting participants to return and repent (to the temple and its liturgy). They postponed Passover for a month so all could

come and enough priests would be ready to prepare the sacrifices.

- Many people in the north laughed him to scorn, but some responded. All in all, there was a "very large assembly."
- Some scholars think this was the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. (Here it was conjoined with Passover.)
- Many of the north were ritually impure, but Hezekiah prayed that the "Lord would pardon all those who set their hearts to seek him."
- **The Lord's favorable response and the resultant healing of the community struck a blow against inflexible legalism.**
- When the seven days of the festival were up, the people opted for another seven days! And the Chronicler wrote, "Since the time of Solomon son of King David of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem."
- **When it was over, the participants were so filled with zeal that they began to cleanse the land (north and south) of all the high places, sacred poles, and altars.**
- Hezekiah himself had broken into pieces the "brassen serpent" (bronze snake) Moses had made, recognizing that the people attached superstitious meaning to the relic wilderness story. (See 2 Kings 18:3, 4; Numbers 21:5-9)
- Hezekiah implored the people to give generously the portion due the priests and Levites. Though other sources indicate people resented this, here, they responded with such generosity that new storehouses had to be built.
- Hezekiah's hope for reunification might have been the reason he named his son Manasseh. (The fact that Assyria was busy elsewhere and pretty much was ignoring the north at this time might also have bolstered his plans.)

- **In the fourteenth year of his reign, Hezekiah's faith was tested by an invasion of the Assyrian king, Sennacherib, who determined to do to Judah what he had done in the north. He began by capturing all the fortified cities.**
- Hezekiah offered the king a bargain. He admitted wrongdoing and agreed to pay a tribute if only Sennacherib would withdraw. Sennacherib demanded "three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold." At least part of this gold came from the temple, where it was removed from the doors and pillars. (See 2 Kings 18:14-16)
- **Despite the tribute of silver and gold, the Assyrians laid siege to Jerusalem and the surrounding cities. The Assyrian commander taunted Hezekiah for the mounting desertions in his army and mocked the people for depending on God whom he accused of being impotent.**
- **Upon hearing the commander's words, Hezekiah turned to the prophet, Isaiah. Isaiah told him God would deliver them.**
- **The commander repeated his taunts through letters. Hezekiah took these to the temple and laid them out before Yahweh and prayed directly** (See 2 Kings 15-19).
- **Isaiah sent word to him that God had heard his prayers. Isaiah's prophecy included a lengthy response to Sennacherib and Hezekiah, including the prophecy of a remnant.** (See 2 Kings 20-34).
- **Thanks to the prayers of Hezekiah, Isaiah, and the Hebrew people, Jerusalem was delivered. "Then the angel of the Lord went forth, and smote in the camp of**

the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand...." (NIV: "a hundred and eighty-five thousand men." **(2 Kings 19:35)**)

- After the sudden plague, Sennacherib's remaining troops withdrew and returned to Nineveh, the capital of Assyria.
- Under the rocky ground of Jerusalem, there is a 1749-foot tunnel known as "Hezekiah's tunnel." Tourists in Jerusalem enjoy walking single file through the dark tunnel built to conduct water from the Gihon spring to the pool of Siloam. The tunnel was cleared in 1910.
- Hebrew writing was found inside Hezekiah's tunnel. Known as the Siloam inscription, the rock with this writing on it is now in the Museum of the Ancient Orient at Istanbul, Turkey.
- Sometime after Jerusalem's deliverance from Sennacherib's army, Hezekiah became very ill. The prophet Isaiah had the task of informing Hezekiah that he should set his "house in order" for he would die.
- **Once again, Hezekiah prayed to God for help. God responded immediately and Isaiah was sent to relay the good news. Hezekiah asked for a sign that would modify the order of creation by shortening the shadow on the sundial - essentially turning back time.**
- The sign was granted and Hezekiah knew he'd recover. Not only was Hezekiah "recovered of his sickness," but also he lived for another 15 years.
- **Upon his recovery, Hezekiah recited a psalm of thanksgiving, according to Isaiah 38:9-20.** According to the Anchor Bible, "this is one of the rare instances outside the Psalter where a personality other than David is the author of a psalm."
- **After Hezekiah was recovered from his sickness, he was "flattered by Babylon's suggestion of an alliance against Assyria." Hezekiah welcomed the Babylonian ambassadors and "proudly exhibited his treasures."** (The Interpreter's Bible in Twelve Volumes, Vol. III, p. 308)
- **The prophet, Isaiah, correctly prophesied that everything in Hezekiah's palace would be carried off to Babylon.**

(Isaiah 39:1- 6) This sad event occurred during King Zedekiah's reign. (II Kings 24:13)

- Hezekiah is mentioned on an archaeological find known as Sennacherib's prism. The prism, dated 691 BCE, was found at Nineveh. Today it is at The Oriental Institute, University of Chicago.

Sennacherib gives his own version of the event at Jerusalem and writes: "Hezekiah...I made a prisoner in Jerusalem...like a bird in a cage."

- **King Manasseh, Hezekiah's son, "was as evil as his father was good."** (Leishman and Lewis, p. 47)

- The Bible stories about Hezekiah show that he had both **strengths and weaknesses. His weakness was succumbing to flattery. His strengths were reliance on God, a willingness to pray, courage, wisdom, and foresight.**

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Outline of Isaiah chapters 36, 37, 38, 39

–King Hezekiah in Jerusalem

This page provides an outline of Isaiah chapters 36 to 39 for your reference. The complete outline of Isaiah is spread over several lessons.

1 *Context Overview*

In chapters twenty-eight to thirty-nine of Isaiah, Jerusalem is issued with a series of warnings, especially that their trust in Egypt as an ally is misplaced, and they should be trusting in God. These warnings are followed by encouragement, in the form of poems about the Messiah, "**the King in his beauty.**" Next Isaiah warns all nations that they are accountable to God. Isaiah then tells the story of how God helped king Hezekiah in Jerusalem to save the city from destruction by Sennacherib king of Assyria. He then records how God extended Hezekiah's life, and promised him that Jerusalem would not be destroyed until after his death.

2 *Hezekiah and Sennacherib (Isaiah 36-37)*

These two chapters record how Hezekiah king of Judah listens to God and obeys the word of Isaiah. The result is that Sennacherib king of Assyria is defeated in his attack on Jerusalem, and the destruction of Jerusalem is postponed until the Babylonian empire rises to power.

- Sennacherib's boast, showing his arrogance and ignorance. What he says about Egypt is true, but by his public derision of God and good King Hezekiah, he has signed his own death warrant (Isaiah 36:1-22).
- Isaiah encourages Hezekiah with a prediction that Sennacherib will retreat to his own land and there be killed by sword (Isaiah 37:1-7).
- Sennacherib again blasphemes, boasts, and threatens (Isaiah 37:8-13).
- Hezekiah takes his troubles to God in prayer (Isaiah 37:14-20).
- Isaiah delivers God's answer in the form of an oracle against Sennacherib...

- Sennacherib's boasting and blasphemy condemned (Isaiah 37:21-25).
- Sennacherib's power comes from God, and now God will take his power away (Isaiah 37:26-29).
- Hezekiah is given a sign and promise that Sennacherib will not besiege or invade the city of Jerusalem (Isaiah 37:30-35).
- The Angel of the LORD routs the Assyrian army. Sennacherib retreats home to Ninevah. While he was worshipping his god, his sons murdered him by sword (Isaiah 37:36-38).

3 *Hezekiah's Life and Reign Extended (Isaiah 38-39).*

- Hezekiah falls seriously ill. He prays to God, who grants him 15 more years of life with a remarkable sign (Isaiah 38:1-8).
- Hezekiah's song (Isaiah 38:9-20).
- Footnotes recording the cure Isaiah prescribed for Hezekiah's illness and Hezekiah's request for a sign (Isaiah 38:21-22).
- Babylonian envoys visit Hezekiah, he shows them all his treasures. Isaiah prophesies that after Hezekiah's time the Babylonians will seize the treasures and carry off many people of Jerusalem into exile and slavery. Some of Hezekiah's sons will be among them (Isaiah 39:1-8)

Note:— Duplicate passages. A very similar record to Isaiah 36-39 is found in 2Kings 18-20. See also 2Chronicles 32.

Hezekiah and Isaiah

—And their godliness as king and prophet

***Time ~ Exile and Scattering. Span ~ 200 years
Begins with ~ Wars upon Israel and Judah
Ascendant empire ~ Babylon***

After Israel fell to the Assyrians, the city of Jerusalem, capital of the small kingdom of Judah, was vulnerable. The Assyrian military commander Sennacherib knew it, and laid seige to Jerusalem. Hezekiah king of Judah was distressed, and sought the help of Isaiah the prophet.

1 *Do a Hezekiah*

When everything looks as grim as it can possibly look, you do what Hezekiah did.

"He spread it before the LORD. Then Hezekiah prayed to the LORD" (2Kings 19:14-16).

It worked for Hezekiah. "Indeed for peace I had this bitterness, but you have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit" (Isaiah 37:14-15, 38:17)

2 *Godly King, Godly Prophet*

A few years after Samaria fell and the kingdom of Israel was led into exile, the Assyrians turned their attention to Judah where Hezekiah was reigning (after his father Ahaz died) and Isaiah the prophet was preaching God's message. Sennacherib the ruthless commander of the Assyrian army, made a seige.

This would surely have meant the immediate fall of Jerusalem, and Judah would have gone the same way as the northern kingdom. The Assyrians, however, were not to have their way. It would be many years later, under a new superpower (the Babylonians), that Judah would be taken captive.

This reprieve for Judah was God's response to the humility and righteousness of Hezekiah the king and of Isaiah the prophet. Under their combined leadership Judah was purged of evil. The LORD therefore saved the small kingdom, weak as it was, against the might of Sennacherib's army.

Sennacherib demonstrated that he was a master of warfare both psychological and material. He made the serious mistake, however, of boasting against the LORD. So the LORD's angelic warriors showed him, in one dreadful night, that the power of God, not Assyria, is invincible.

3 *Bible Summary (2 Kings 18-20)*

- *Similar information is found in 2nd Chronicles 26-32*
- *Almost identical information is given in Isaiah 36-39*

- Hezekiah becomes king of Judah (18)
- He purges Judah of idolatry (18)
- A far better king than his predecessors (18)
- The king of Assyria's messengers challenge Hezekiah (18)
- Hezekiah sends word to Isaiah the prophet (19)
- Hezekiah receives a boastful letter from Sennacherib (19)
- Hezekiah prays, Isaiah prophesies (19)
- The angel kills 185,000 Assyrians at night in their camp (19)
- Hezekiah falls ill. Isaiah says he will die, but God promises to add 15 years to his life (20)
- The shadow on the stairway goes back ten steps as a sign to Hezekiah (20)
- Isaiah prophesies the captivity of Judah in Babylon (20)

4 *Sennacherib's Own Account*

"But as for Hezekiah, the Jew, who did not bow to my yoke, forty-six of his strong walled towns, and innumerable smaller villages in their neighbourhood, I besieged and conquered by stamping down earth ramps and then by bring up battering rams, by the assault of foot soldiers, by breaches, by tunnelling and military engineering operations.

I made to come out from them 200,150 people, young and old, male and female, innumerable horses, mules, donkeys, camels, large and small cattle, and counted them as spoils of war. He himself I shut up like a caged

bird within Jerusalem his royal city. As for Hezekiah, the awful splendour of my lordship overwhelmed him."

(From Sennacherib's inscription on a hexagonal clay prism)

5 *A Few Facts About Isaiah*

- A prophet in Judah after the kingdom divided
- Called Esaias in the King James New Testament
- Contemporary with the kings of Judah named Uzziah (Azariah), Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah
- Contemporary with the kings of Israel from Jereboam II to Hoshea
- Contemporary with Amos, Hosea, and Micah, who were prophets in the kingdom of Israel before its fall.
- Prophesied against Assyria after the commander Sennacherib sent a boastful letter to Hezekiah
- A great help and encouragement to Hezekiah his king when Judah was under great threat and seige
- Author of the first of four major books of prophecy in the Old Testament: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel.

6 *A Few Facts About Hezekiah*

- The king of Judah who withstood Sennacherib the Assyrian commander, after Israel fell to Assyria.
- A good king who sought God through Isaiah the prophet
- He purged the kingdom of Judah from idols
- He received 15 years of grace added to his life
- His story is told in 2Kings 18-20, 2Chronicles 29-32, Isaiah 36-39