



**WOLBI HOUR-9**

**PRAYER-Hezekiah's Big Problem Assyria  
& the Destroyer From the Pit (36-39)**

## **ISAIAH OUTLINED: God's Expectations of His People & God's Future Plans for His People**

### **I. Our Mighty God Chastening His People 1-39**

- A. God, Sin, Culture & Consecration (1-6)
- B. The Messiah Promised (7-12)
- C. The Nations Judged (13-23)
- D. The Tribulation Foretold (24-27)
- E. The Woes against Judah (28-35)
- F. God's Powerful Hand Shown to Hezekiah (36-39)

### **II. Our Merciful God Comforting His People 40-66**

- A. God Promises Restoration (40-48)
- B. God Offers Salvation through the Messiah (49-57)
- C. God Describes the Millennium (58-66)

The Old Testament Chronologically Arranged

Books:	Historical	Poetical	Prophetic
	GENESIS <i>Beginnings</i>	JOB	
LEVITICUS <i>Worship</i>	EXODUS <i>Redemption</i>		
DEUTERONOMY <i>Review</i>	NUMBERS <i>Wanderings</i>		
	JOSHUA <i>Success</i>		
RUTH <i>Faith &amp; Love</i>	JUDGES <i>Failure</i>		
	1 SAMUEL <i>Preparation</i>	PSALMS <i>(David)</i>	To Nineveh: JONAH
	2 SAMUEL <i>Establishment</i>	PROVERBS ECCLESIASTES SONG OF SOL.	To Israel: AMOS HOSEA JOEL
1-2 CHRON. <i>God's Evaluation</i>	1 KINGS <i>Division</i>	LAMENTATIONS	To Edom: OBADIAH
	2 KINGS <i>Loss</i>		To Judah: ISAIAH MICAH NAHUM HABAKKUK ZEPHANIAH JEREMIAH
<b>70 Years of Captivity</b>			
ESTHER <i>Faith &amp; Courage</i>	EZRA <i>Temple</i>		EZEKIEL DANIEL
	NEHEMIAH <i>Wall</i>		HAGGAI ZECHARIAH MALACHI

# SACRED HISTORY:

"Everything Happened Sometime"



# God Had Plans for Israel

## God Had Other Plans

The strategic location of the land would create special pressures. You might call it, “God’s testing ground of faith.” In this land, there was much pressure and many tests. But, through these tests, with all odds against the Israelites, God showed forth His miracle power to sustain them and bless them, even in difficult situations. That made people sit up and take notice.

Since all communication, trade, and even armies of the ancient world had to pass through this land, the message of God’s relationship to man through His chosen people would be spread to the known world.

The people of Israel were to be the living testimony of God through their lifestyle and message. In times of peace, traders and travelers could see and hear God’s message and take it to the world.

In times of war, God showed His power to miraculously defend them. This message also went around the world. For example, the great King Sennacherib of Assyria invaded Judah in 720 BC. When he reached Jerusalem, he blockaded the city and mocked King Hezekiah and the God of Israel. God moved. The angel of the Lord killed the soldiers and officers of Sennacherib. II Chron. 32 says that Sennacherib returned back to Assyria in disgrace. Not only is this recorded in the Bible, but Sennacherib left an account of this event chiseled in stone which testifies to what God did on this day in Israel.

# SACRED GEOGRAPHY:

"Everything Happened Somewhere"





### The Seven Great Empires of the Ancient World

1. The Egyptian Empire (1450 BC)
2. The Hittite Empire (1340 - 1200 BC)
3. The Assyrian Empire (745 - 612 BC)
4. The Babylonian Empire (612 - 539 BC)
5. The Medo-Persian Empire (539 – 330 BC)
6. The Greek Empire (330 – 146 BC)
7. The Roman Empire (146 BC – approx 476 AD)

# Chapter 36: Hezekiah's Trouble: Assyrian Invasion Threat

## Chapter 36

Historical Parenthesis (Chapter 35-39)

Narrative (parallels 2 Kings 18:9-21:16).

One Isaiah, but two different stylistic renderings, style will change drastically in Chapter 40. Plenty of evidence which shows the book to be of a unified design, clearly one Isaiah. 2 Chronicles 32-33 are also of this period.

### Historical Context

Ahaz was a bad king; his successor was Hezekiah whom Isaiah served. In general, Hezekiah did well, in that he tore down the idols throughout the land and reestablished worship to the true living God in Jerusalem. This was misunderstood by his enemies. Hezekiah's anxiety comes from the imminent attack by the Assyrians, lead by Sennacherib. A major motivation in the battles of this day was the victory over foreign gods, proving conquering nation's god/idol was "better" than loser's god. Hezekiah had paid to be left alone, yet this was ignored by the Assyrians so Hezekiah turns to Egypt.

### Hezekiah's Trouble: Assyrian Invasion Threat

Other cities of Judah fallen.

2] "Rabshakeh" - not a name, but a title of the chief officer under the king of Assyria, sent to intimidate and request surrender from Judah.

Lachish - field capital (actually capital was Ninevah).

3] Shebna, may not be the same as the Shebna of Isa 22:15. 6] Bruised reed - loses its compressive strength and bends.

Who do you trust?

7] Rabshakeh is misinformed! Data is correct, yet interpretation is wrong. Hezekiah had torn down all the idols, groves, altars. They misunderstood and thought that he had torn down the field altars to force worship at Jerusalem. They didn't realize the difference in gods and God; thus they thought that the tearing down of altars had offended the gods they worshiped.

8] Rabshakeh is speaking in Hebrew. Hezekiah's men wish he would speak in Aramaic so the men on the wall would not understand the remarks being made about the

army (see v. 11-12).

12] Rabshakeh wants the people to know that if they do not surrender they will be under siege. The strength of the wall was the main factor in a city's strength. A siege would seal a city for as long as it would take to starve out the people, the Romans would be prepared to camp around a city for 15-20 YEARS!

When Rabshakeh says, "That they may eat their own refuse and drink their own water" he is being literal and graphic, as sieges are horrible times for the people, forcing them to turn to cannibalism for survival!

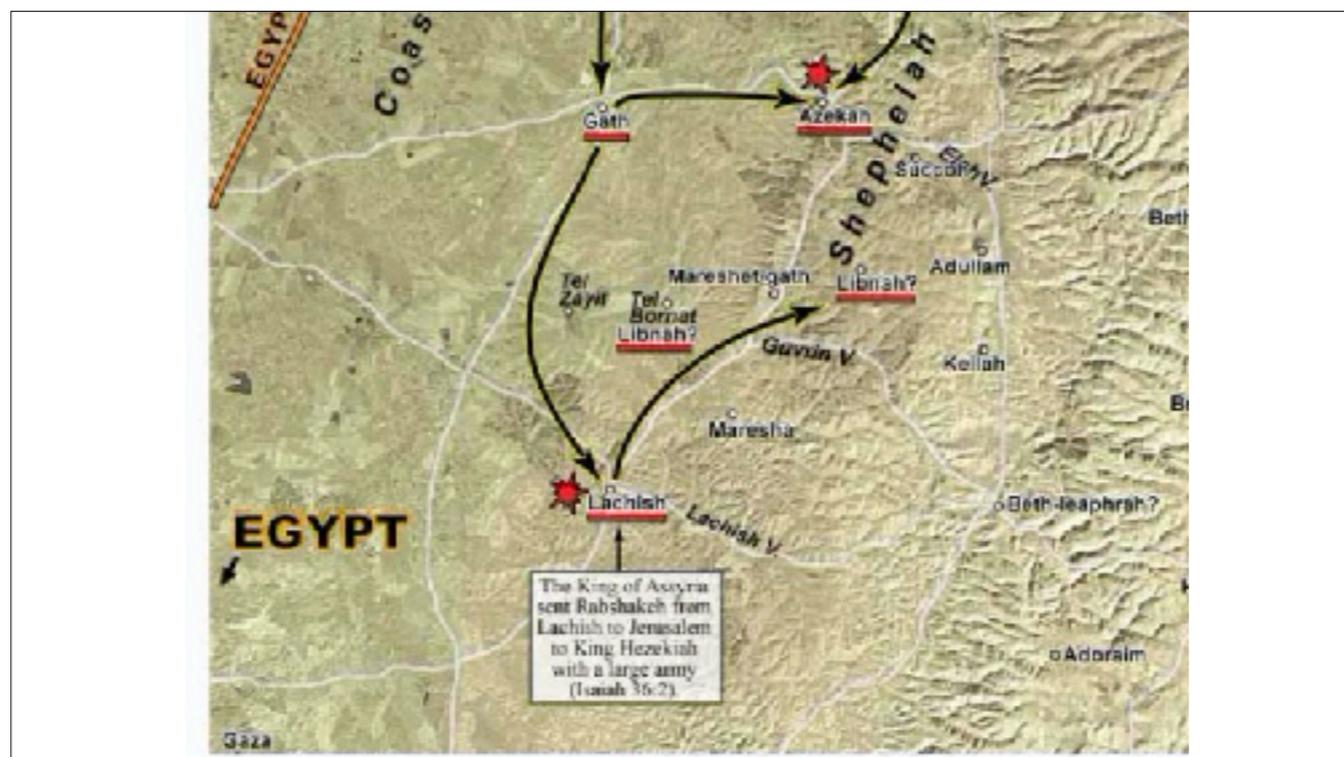
20] Hezekiah's men were well instructed, they were to receive Rabshakeh, but not respond to his words.

22] "...torn their cloths" - classic Jewish gesture of anguish (the first step towards sackcloth and ashes).

7-7 Hezekiah against Sennacherib Date: 705-701 BC









# Chapter 37: Hezekiah's Prayer

## Chapter 37

### Hezekiah's Prayer

- 1] Ps 50:15 (commandment or prophecy?). Ps 55:22 "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."
- 2] Hezekiah will pray, but his answer will come through Isaiah. Ps 121:4 "Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."
- Gen 12:3 "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."
- 6] "Thus saith the Lord" - as grave an emphasis as possible. "Servants" - minions, derogatory term.
- 12] Cities all through Middle East which have fallen. (Letter vs. verbal)
- 16] "Dwellestbetweenthecherubim"-Isa6,Ezek1,10;Rev4.Fourcherubim so why "between" verses "among"? God viewed here by Hezekiah as dwelling between the cherubim of the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy of Holies.
- 17] Use of verbs resembles Dan 9.
- 20] Only one thing God puts higher than His Name: His Word (Ps 138:2).  
Truth is when the Word and deed become one.
- 29] Cf. Ezek 38 (hooks in the jaws).
- 35] Note he references for His and for His servant David's sake, not for Hezekiah, nor the people. Ezek 36:21 "... I do not this for your sakes, but for My holy Name' s sake.."
- 37] Sennachrib went all the way home, Ninevah, not Lachish.
- 38] Sennachrib, assassinated by his own sons.

# Chapter 38: Hezekiah's Illness

## Chapter 38

### Hezekiah's Illness

1] Hezekiah's sickness: boil (v. 21) [See Ex 9-11 (6th plague of boils), Lev 18:18-23 (this term used of a leprous ulcer), Deut 28:21, 35 ("botch of Egypt"), Job 2:7 (Job's predicament).]

5] Ps 106:15 "And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul."

Hezekiah got his request, but it may not have been a good idea because they were not good years. Some scholars point out that this particular sickness may have been the sign of divine displeasure (Job 15:32, 22:5, 16; Ps 55:23, Prov 10:27).

Manasseh was not yet born (2 Chr 33:1, 2 Kgs 21:2) and he was the most wicked king (he repents at 50!). Manasseh's son Amon was also bad. Josiah however, brought great revival.

8] 2 Chr 32:31 (parallel account notes that they requested the sun to go backwards, not forward.)

All calendars changed in 701 B.C. (See "The Long Day of Joshua" in Signs in the Heavens or Joshua commentary series.)

Jonathan Swift: Gulliver's Travels described the two moons of Mars in precise detail, 150 years before they were discovered! Might have been drawing upon legends which were really eye-witness accounts! (Implying near passby of Mars!)

Were the 15 years a good idea?? These years bring nothing but grief.

Two years later Manasseh was born; when Hezekiah dies he takes over (at age 12). He put up the idols in the high places. According to Talmudic sources, Manasseh martyrs Isaiah, apparently sawing him in half with a wooden saw (also alluded to in Heb 11)! (For reference see our article in June 1996 "Personal UPDA TE.")

14] Crane - sWs (soos) - crane or swallow, also refers to leaper. (Cf. Jer 8:7, Ex 14:9, Ezek 38, 39.)

21] Boil: See Ex 9-11 (6th plague of boils); Lev 18:18-23 (this term used of a leprous ulcer); Deut 28:21, 35 ("botch of Egypt"); Job 2:7 (Job's predicament).

Old Testament had a limited view of death (Hezekiah was 39). Jesus brought life and immortality to light (2 Tim 1:10), freed us from bondage (Heb 2:14, 15), death became absent from the body, present with the Lord (2 Cor 5:8), for better (Phil 1:23), "never see death" (Jn 8:51).

# Chapter 39: Hezekiah's Folly

## Chapter 39

### Hezekiah's Folly

Babylon at this time is a small town, a pawn of Assyrian politics.

1] Merodachbaladan - name/title of a god they worshiped.

(The flatterers)

2] Amazing what we'll do on an ego trip!

3] Isaiah unsent for, just went to ask a few questions. Pride.

4] Isaiah asks: Who were they? Where are they from? What did you show them?

7] Happens 100 years later! (2 Chr 36:18).

Dan 1:3 (Hint of royal blood? Captives did include royal seed.)

"Ends so-called Isaiah 1." There is only one Isaiah!

How Many Isaiahs?

With its 66 chapters, Isaiah is the largest and most eloquent prophetic book of the Old Testament.<sup>1</sup> Most scholars agree that the book falls naturally into two major sections, Chapters 1-39 and Chapters 40-66.

The first section has a distinctive style which changes noticeably in the final section. It is easy to remember since it parallels the Bible itself, with 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. (But don't make too much of this; the chapter divisions as we know them were added in the 13th century.)

# **Hezekiah's Bio: Eleven Chapters**

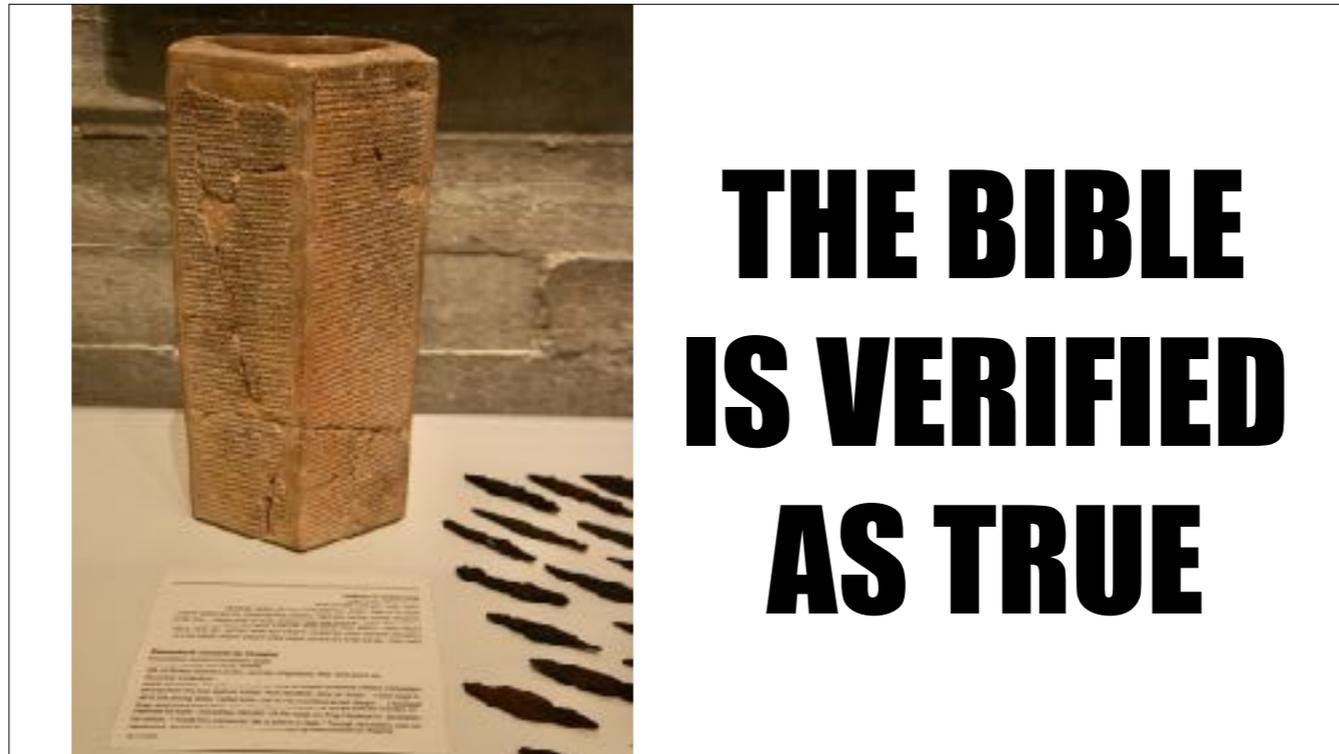
**2 Kings 18-20;  
2 Chronicles 29-32; Isaiah 36-39**

Hezekiah is in 11 chapters of God's Word (2 Kings 18-20; 2 Chron. 29-32; Isaiah 36-39) and his life speaks volumes to us. Think of pride (2 Kings 18:28); spreading your troubles before the Lord (2 Kings 19:14 ); and the awesome power God has to deliver as He showed in the death of 185,000 Assyrians (2 Kings 19:35). God stopped Sennacherib in his tracks, and showed Hezekiah what to do with problems: Spread them out before the Lord (Isaiah 10:32; 37:33-37).

# **Hezekiah, the 185,000 Assyrian Warriors & the Key of David**

**Isaiah 22:22 & Revelation 3:7**

Jesus has the key of David. Except for Revelation 3:7, the only other place “the key of David” appears in the Word of God is in Isaiah 22. At that time, King Hezekiah was on the throne of Israel, and 185,000 Assyrian enemy soldiers were on their way. These fierce warriors had their tents, chariots, and all their battle gear with them; they covered a vast territory, which greatly intimidated the Israelites. But Hezekiah came out on the wall of the city, looked at all those Assyrian warriors, got down on his knees, and asked God to defeat them. That night, God sent one angel and killed them all!



## Hezekiah's Tunnel and Wall Give a Lesson from Archaeology

The ancient world had a bully system that worked in straightforward terms.

A nation would conquer a region and demand tribute—annual payment of money and goods. If you didn't pay tribute, they'd come and kill you. Pretty simple system.

(Photo: Hezekiah's Tunnel. Courtesy of the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands)

King Hezekiah refused to pay tribute to the bully. So the Assyrians invaded Judah.

Archaeology has unearthed treasures that reveal Hezekiah's faith in God.

### Hezekiah's Tunnel Brought Water Inside Jerusalem

After Assyria invaded Judah and began besieging the fortified cities (2 Chronicles 32:1).

"Hezekiah decided with his officers and his warriors to cut off the supply of water from the springs which were outside the city, and they helped him. So many people assembled and stopped up all the springs and the stream which flowed through the region, saying, 'Why should the kings of Assyria come and find abundant water?' . . .

It was Hezekiah who stopped the upper outlet of the waters of Gihon and directed them to the west side of the city of David" (2 Chronicles 32:3-4, 30).

(Photo: Wading through Hezekiah's Tunnel. Courtesy of the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands)

Today, visitors to Jerusalem can wade through the Hezekiah's Tunnel, chiseled beneath the City of David—an absolute marvel of engineering. (There's also an option to walk through a "Dry Tunnel" built earlier by the Canaanites.)

How many pieces of archaeology can you interact with so closely? Very few.

The famous "Siloam Inscription," discovered at the end of the tunnel, described in ancient Hebrew script the process of digging the passageway. The inscription now sits on the top story of the Istanbul Archaeological Museum.

(Photo: The Siloam Inscription in the Archaeological Museum in Istanbul, Turkey)

### Hezekiah's Broad Wall Enlarged Jerusalem

To protect the large number of refugees who scrambled south after Assyria invaded the northern kingdom twenty years earlier, King Hezekiah built a wall around the western hill of the city of Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 32:5).

A portion of this "broad wall" still stands for all to see in today's Jewish Quarter.

(Photo: Hezekiah's Broad Wall in Jerusalem. Courtesy of the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands)

### Hezekiah's Preparations Included Prayer

They had a wall. They had water. They even had weapons. But those preparations were not where they placed their confidence.

Hezekiah prayed with the Prophet Isaiah. (What better prayer partner could you have than the prophet Isaiah?) Hezekiah's words to his people were wonderful:

"Be strong and courageous, do not fear or be dismayed because of the king of Assyria, nor because of all the multitude which is with him; for the one with us is greater than the one with him. With him is only an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles" (2 Chronicles 32:7-8).

And what happened? The Lord sent an angel who wiped out the Assyrian army.

So much for the bully.

The Assyrian records also record this siege. Sennacherib recorded these words on a prism:

"As to Hezekiah, the Jew, he did not submit to my yoke. I laid siege to forty-six of his strong cities, walled forts and to the countless small villages in their vicinity and conquered them . . . . Himself I made prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like a bird in a cage."

(Photo: Photographing Sennacherib's Prism at the British Museum in London, England)

Notice it doesn't say he conquered Jerusalem! The Assyrian king could only boast that he surrounded it. The part about God obliterating his army, Sennacherib conveniently omitted.

Spin politics isn't a new thing.

### A Lesson from Biblical Archaeology

When I walked through Hezekiah's tunnel, and when I gazed at the broad wall he built, and when I observed Sennacherib's prism in the British Museum, or when I tried to read the Siloam instruction in the Istanbul Archaeological Museum, one lesson continued to rattle in my mind.

I have a faith rooted in history—not mystery. The words on the pages of Scripture are supporting by simple elements we can dig out of the ground.

They prove nothing, but they support it all.

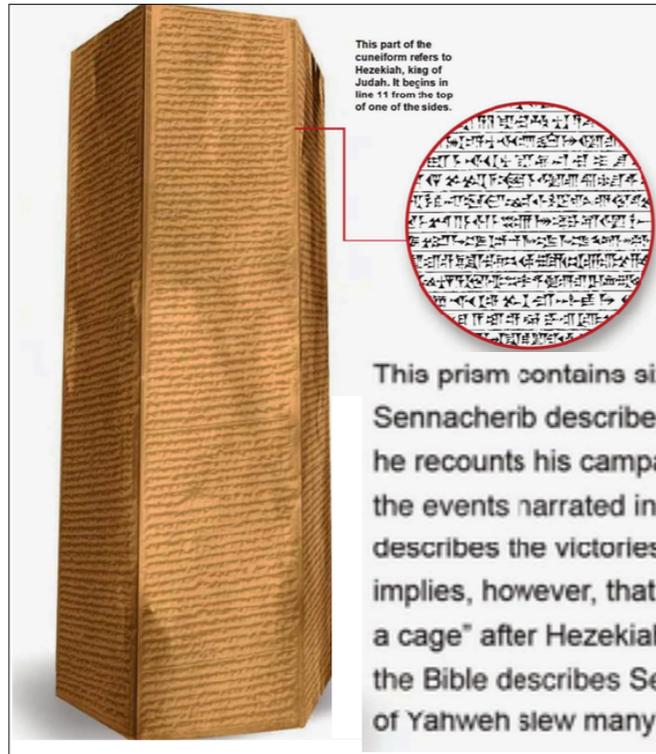
How can we expect to believe in the parts of the Bible we cannot verify—like faith, the Messiah, and heaven—if the Scriptures are not also true in the natural realm?

The Bible is not primarily a history book, but what it says about history is true. The Bible is not a science book, but what it says about science is true.

This reality reminds me of what Jesus said to Nicodemus: "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" (John 3:12).

With my own eyes I have seen Hezekiah's wall, Hezekiah's Tunnel, Sennacherib's Prism, and the Siloam Inscription. They are real.

So is my faith.



This part of the cuneiform refers to Hezekiah, king of Judah. It begins in line 51 from the top of one of the sides.

# Sennacherib's Prism

This prism contains six columns of text in which Assyrian king Sennacherib describes his triumphs. On column three (shown), he recounts his campaign against Judah, presenting a version of the events narrated in 2 Kgs 18–19. Like the Bible's account, he describes the victories that led to his siege of Jerusalem. He implies, however, that he left Hezekiah in Jerusalem "like a bird in a cage" after Hezekiah sent him the spoils of the city. Conversely, the Bible describes Sennacherib's army departing after the Angel of Yahweh slew many of them.

# **Deny Ungodliness a Place in your Life**

**2 Kings 18:1-12**

When Hezekiah did so, God blessed all in his life v.7  
Titus 2:11-13

# **Avoid the Defeating Power of Fear**

**2 Kings 18:13-37**

When Hezekiah allowed fear to rule he was defeated, disobeyed God, and dishonored His name.

2 Tim 1:7



Isaiah 36:1-2 states, “The king of Assyria sent his supreme commander, his chief officer and his field commander with a large army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem.” The prize of Judah would be the destruction of Jerusalem. Conquering Boston would be a victory but defeating Washington, D.C. would be even greater. Sennacherib drives one of the most powerful armies of all human history toward Jerusalem. The Assyrian commander tells the people of Jerusalem, “Do not listen to Hezekiah, for he is misleading you when he says, ‘The Lord will deliver us.’ Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria?”

Hezekiah prays fervently for deliverance. He sends a delegation to Isaiah the prophet for counsel. Isaiah tells him not to worry Jerusalem will NOT be destroyed by the leading world power, God will intervene. This is just one of the myriad stories found in the Bible. Is this story accurate? How can a story from nearly 3,000 years ago be trusted as completely true? Does archaeology support or deny the accuracy of Isaiah 36-38?



**The Discovery:** We know from Assyrian history, outside the Bible, there was a king named Sennacherib. His reign was from 704-681 BC. We know Sennacherib moved the capital of the Assyrian empire from a city named Dur Sharrukin to Nineveh. He then built an amazing palace. He actually named his palace, “The Palace without Rival.” John Malcolm Russell explains, “The walls of some seventy rooms in this structure were lined with limestone slabs carved in low relief with scenes commemorating Sennacherib’s royal exploits.” For nearly 2,500 years the palace lay buried and forgotten.

In 1847 Sennacherib’s palace was discovered by the British diplomat and amateur archaeologist Austin Henry Layard. Layard’s discovery drew a huge amount of attention. Inscriptions discovered within the palace removed any doubt this was indeed Sennacherib’s famous palace. The finds were magnificent. The main focus of the excitement came from a room archaeologists labeled, “Room XXVI.”

Layard found the walls of this room covered with limestone 8 feet tall and 80 feet long wrapping around all four walls. Every inch of the room’s walls powerfully depicted only one scene in history, Sennacherib’s defeat of the southern kingdom city of Lachish. Remember in 2 Kings 18:17, “The king of Assyria sent his supreme commander, his chief officer and his field commander with a large army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem.”

The piece of art identifies itself as the battle of Lachish and provides detailed chronological information about the battle. Some women are seen walking down siege ramps; while possibly their husbands are being impaled by the Assyrians. We see what the women of Lachish were wearing the day of the battle; we see the type of facial hair worn by the men. We see the type of military equipment and military techniques the Assyrians used to defeat Lachish and threaten Jerusalem. The relief gives us stunning play-by-play detail of the destruction of Lachish.

Do you see all the little dome-shaped objects in the background? What are they? Each one represents a soldier’s helmet. They are depicting in art a vast sea of soldier’s helmets, representing the immensity of the Assyrian army. Isaiah 36:1-2 states, “The king of Assyria sent his supreme commander, his chief officer and his field

commander with a large army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem.” The prize of Judah would be the destruction of Jerusalem. Conquering Boston would be a victory but defeating Washington, D.C. would be even greater. Sennacherib drives one of the most powerful armies of all human history toward Jerusalem. The Assyrian commander tells the people of Jerusalem, “Do not listen to Hezekiah, for he is misleading you when he says, ‘The Lord will deliver us.’ Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria?”

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# **Seek God Through His Word & Prayer When Facing Challenges**

2 Kings 19:1-37

Dt 4.29

2 Chr 16:9

Mt 6.33



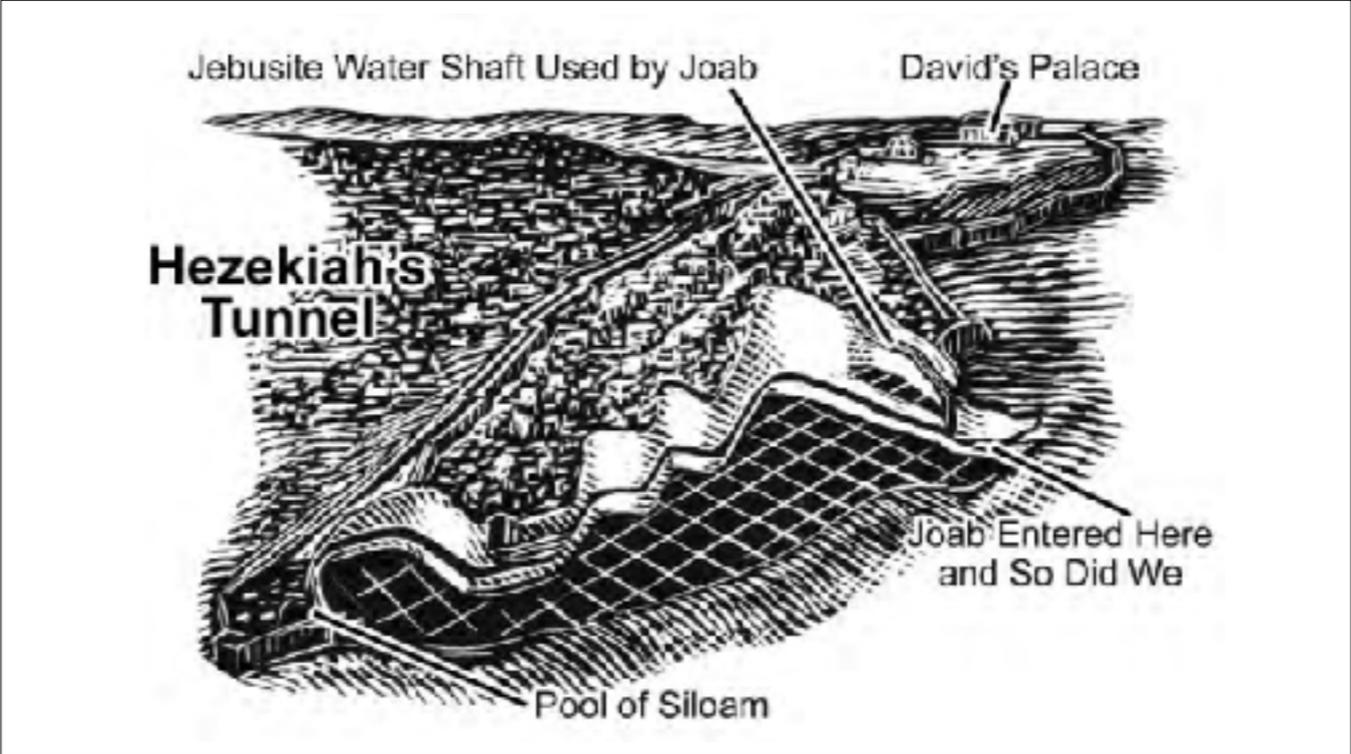
Broad Wall in the Jewish Quarter: An ancient broad wall was discovered in the Jewish Quarter after the reunification of Jerusalem in the 1960s. The wall dates back to the time of King Hezekiah and corresponds with the biblical record, which says that he: “built another outside wall” (2 Chronicles 32:5). The king constructed this wall to accommodate the many refugees who fled south after Assyria invaded the northern kingdom twenty years earlier. Although only a small portion of this wall has been unearthed, archaeologists estimate that it encompassed the entire Western Hill. Interpretive signs today tell visitors about the massive size of the original wall. Location: Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem

The Sennacherib Prism was discovered in Nineveh, the ancient capital of the Assyrian Empire, in 1850 BC. It records the Annals of Sennacherib. This is one of three Assyrian accounts of their invasion of Judah discovered so far. Jerusalem was approached but never taken. Hezekiah paid tribute after the invasion but was never defeated. Sennacherib agrees with the biblical account that Judah was invaded and many of its cities fell but in the end Jerusalem and Hezekiah were not touched by the military. Hezekiah continued as a subject of the Assyrian Empire but was not overthrown or defeated. The best Sennacherib can say is concerning Hezekiah is "I made a prisoner in Jerusalem . . . like a bird in a cage." It is not surprising that Sennacherib does not mention his flight out of Judea, the loss of 185,000 men or even anything resembling Herodotus' account.

## Sennacherib Inscription

"In my third campaign I marched against Irti Lul, king of Sidon, whom the terror-inspiring glamour of my lordship had overwhelmed. Led by overseas and perished . . . As to Hezekiah, the Jew, he did not submit to my yoke. I laid siege to his strong cities, walled forts, and countless small villages, and conquered them by means of well-stamped earth-ramps and battering-rams brought near the walls with an attack by foot soldiers, using mines, breaches as well as trenches. I drove out 200,150 people, young and old, male and female, horses, mules, donkeys, camels, big and small cattle beyond counting, and considered them slaves. Himself I made a prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like a bird in a cage. I surrounded him with earthwork in order to molest those who were coming out of his city's gate. Thus I reduced his country, but I still increased the tribute and the presents to me as overlord which I imposed upon him beyond the former tribute, to be delivered annually. Hezekiah himself, did send me, later, to Nineveh, my lordly city, together with 30 talents of gold, 800 talents of silver, precious stones, antimony, large cuts of red stone, couches inlaid with ivory, nime-du-chars inlaid with ivory, elephant-hides, ebony-wood, boxwood and all kinds of valuable treasures, his own daughters and concubines . . ."







# **Isaiah 37:10-20**

**Spread Problems Before Lord**

Read

# **Isaiah 37:36**

**Spread Problems Before Lord**

What are you going to spread out before the Lord?