

8/28/11

2Kings 18-19

The northern Kingdom comprised of ten tribes has gone into captivity by the hand of Assyria.

The southern kingdom comprised of two tribes, Benjamin and Judah, is the only remnant left in the land, but will ultimately go into captivity under the hand of Babylon.

This brings us to the reign of king Hezekiah, a good and faithful king that trusted God.

18:1-8 **The reign of Hezekiah over Judah.**

18:1-2 The time of Hezekiah's reign.

- 1) In the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. vs. 1
- 2) He was 25 years old when he became king, reigning 29 years in Jerusalem. vs. 2a-b
* He reigned from 716 B.C. to 687 B.C.
- 3) His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. vs. 2c
* She is called Abijah in Chronicle. 2Chron. 29:1

18:3-4 The deeds of Hezekiah's reign.

- 1) He did what was right in the sight of the LORD, as his father David had done. vs. 3
* He is the only one measuring up to David.
- 2) He cleansed the land of the pagan alters and shrines. vs. 4
 - a) The high places.
 - b) The sacred pillars.
 - c) The wooden image.
 - d) The bronze serpent of Moses because the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan, "It is a thing of brass". Num. 21:8-9, Jn. 3:14-15

18:5-8 The faith of Hezekiah during his reign.

- 1) His trust in the LORD God of Israel, excelled above all kings before and after, in Judah. vs. 5
- 2) The reason given was that he held fast to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His word. vs. 6
- 3) The result being that the LORD was with him; he prospered wherever he went and he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. vs. 7

- 4) He subdued the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory, small and large cities.

vs. 8

* The annals of Sennacherib tell of the actions he took against Hezekiah and the other rebellious nations.

18:9-16 The captivity of Israel reviewed and the first invasion of Assyria of Judah.

18:9-12 The review of Israel's captivity.

- 1) In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, 724 B.C. which was the seventh year of Hoshea the king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it. vs. 9
* 2Kings 17:1, 6
- 2) After three years Samaria fell, the sixth year of Hezekiah, and the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel. vs. 10
* 722 B.C. 2Kings 17:5
- 3) The northern kingdom went captive to Assyria, to be relocated in the cities of Persia. vs. 11
* 2Kings 17:6
- 4) The reason was their disobedience to God and the covenant, vs. 12

18:13-16 The first invasion of Assyria of Judah.

- 1) Sennacherib came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them, in the 14th year of Hezekiah. vs. 13
 - a) It is 701 B.C. , again he began to reign from 716-687 B.C.
 - b) The number of cities were ?, according the Assyrian records and also The Philistine cities Ashkelon and Ekron..
- 2) Hezekiah sent a message to Lachish acknowledging his wrong and offered to pay tribute, so Sennacherib ordered Hezekiah to pay three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. vs. 14
- 3) Hezekiah took all the silver in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of his house, as well as stripping the gold from the doors of the temple and the pillars he had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria. vs. 15-16

18:17-25 The second invasion of Assyria over Judah.

18:17-18 The King of Assyria dispatched an army against Hezekiah.

- 1) Sennacherib sent the Tartan, the Rabsaris, and the Rabshakeh from Lachish, with a large army against Jerusalem. vs. 17
 - a) Tartan is a title a field marshal or commander.

- b) Rabsaris. the chief eunuch and Rabshakeh, the chief cupbearer.
- 2) Arriving at Jerusalem, both officers went and stood by the aqueduct from the upper pool, located on the highway to the Fuller's Field. vs. 18
 - * Hezekiah had diverted the water from the Upper Gihon to the pool of Siloam, chiseling 1700 feet of limestone. 2Kings 20:20, 2Chron. 32:30
- 3) Calling out to the king, two officials of Hezekiah came out. vs. 19
 - a) Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household.
 - b) Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder.

18:19-25 The words of Rabshakeh.

- 1) Rabshakeh directed the message to Hezekiah, form "the great king", Sennacherib,, "What confidence is this in which you trust? vs. 19
- 2) He confronted Hezekiah with having plans and power for war insulting him that they are mere words. vs. 20a-b
- 3) He asked in whom he was trusting, that he would rebel against him? vs. 20c-d
- 4) He pointed out that trusting in Egypt was like trusting in a broken reed for a staff. vs. 21

- 5) He mocked them to trust in the LORD their God, having removed the pagan altars and telling Judah and Jerusalem, to only worship in the altar in Jerusalem. vs. 22
- 6) He challenged them to come out to fight the Assyrians, even providing 2,000 horsed, if they had riders. vs. 23
- 7) He demeaned them saying they could not defeat one of his least captains, even trusting Egypt. vs. 24
- 8) He declared he had come by the direction of Yahweh to destroy them. vs. 25

18:26-37 The words of Rabshakeh against God and Hezekiah.

18:26-27 The request to Rabshakeh to speak in Aramaic.

- 1) Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah asked Rabshakeh to speak in the Aramaic language, in order to avoid the people on the wall from being terrified. vs. 26
 - * Being as diplomatic as possible, "Please speak to your servants."
- 2) Rabshakeh lost it, reminding them of Sennacherib's orders to speak to Hezekiah and threatened the men on the wall would eat and drink their own waste with them. vs. 27

18:28-35 The embolden arrogant response of Rabshakeh.

- 1) Rabshakeh stood and yelled out loud in Hebrew, “Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria!” vs. 28
- 2) Warning by the order of Sennacherib, not to let Hezekiah deceive them about their deliverance. vs. 29
- 3) Nor of trusting Yahweh to deliver the city. vs. 30
- 4) He told them to surrender and appease him with a gift and they would enjoy freedom for a short time. vs. 31
- 5) Then, he would return a take them into captivity, allowing them to live, but they should not listen to Hezekiah and be persuaded of God’s deliverance. vs. 32
- 6) He pointed to the inability of the gods of the nations to deliver them from Sennacherib. vs. 33
- 7) He pointed to the inability of the gods of Samaria, over the king of Assyria. vs. 34
- 7) He concluded Yahweh would be no different, when it came to Jerusalem. vs. 35

18:36-37 The response of Hezekiah’s officials.

- 1) The people, in contrast, held their peace without saying a word, as Hezekiah had commanded. vs. 36

- 2) Then Eliakim, Shebna and Joah went to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and told him the words of the Rabshakeh. vs. 37

19:1-13 The grief but wise response of Hezekiah to the words of Rabshakeh to destroy Jerusalem.

- 1) King Hezekiah humbled himself before God. vs. 1
* It is 701 B.C.
 - a) He expressed his grief over the words of Rabshakeh. vs. 1a-b
 - b) He demonstrated his grief in a very visible manner in sackcloth, a sign of humility. vs. 1c-e
 - c) He went into the house of the LORD, a sign of his desperation, remember Hezekiah led a great revival and declared many reforms from his first year. 2Chron. 29-31
* He witness Shalmaneser king of Assyria besiege Samaria and in three years took it captive for not obeying the Lord, in the sixth year of his reign. 2kings 18:9-12
- 2) King Hezekiah sent his cabinet members to humble themselves before Isaiah the prophet. vs. 2
 1. Hezekiah sent Eliakim, who *was* over the household. vs. 2a

- a. Elkiakim “Elyaquym”, means God raises or God sets up.
 - b. Eliakim was over the household affairs of Hezekiah.
2. Shebna the scribe. vs. 2b
- a. Shebna “shebna”, means vigour.
 - b. Shebna was a scribe, the recorder official documents, etc, the secretary of state.
3. The elders of the priests. vs. 2c
- a. Those who performed service to God.
 - b. Those who had much life experience.
4. Every one of these men were sent covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz. vs. 2d-f
- a. Expressing their grief, as king Hezekiah and brokenness.
 - b. Isaiah prophesied from the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, 740-680 B.C. , about sixty years.
 - c. Isaiah warned constantly of the coming judgment by God and gives a detailed account of this particular period. Is. 36-37, 2Chron. 29-32
* Hosea, Joel, Micah, possibly Obediah, were also were prophets at this time!

19:3-5 King Hezekiah’s words expressed the crisis to Isaiah the prophet.

- 1) Acknowledging the time of national peril of their own doing, being chastened by God. vs. 3
* A day of distress and correction and rejection by God that they might repent. Hos. 5:9-15
- 2) Acknowledging their need of God’s help through Isaiah’s intercession. vs. 4
* “Your God”, Isaiah was one with God!
- 3) The summary statement, “So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah.” vs. 5

19:6-7 King Hezekiah was given an answer by Isaiah the prophet.

- 1) God said they were not to fear the blasphemous words of Sennacherib, the King of Assyria, for they were against Yahweh. vs. 6
- 2) God said He would handle the king of Assyria, causing him to depart to his own land and be assassinated. vs. 7
* We will see how this was fulfilled!

19:8-13 King Hezekiah received a second message from the king of Assyria.

- 1) At the same time Hezekiah was seeking God’s help through Isaiah, Rabshakeh returned back to camp to meet with Sennacherib. vs. 8
a) Lachish was about 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

- b) Libnah was about 7 miles north-east of Lachish.
- 2) At the same time Sennacherib was sidetracked from Jerusalem, without doubt by the providence of God. vs. 9a-b
* Just as prophesied, Egypt came to aid the Philistines in the city of Ekron. vs. 7a-b
- 3) At the same time Sennacherib wanted to re-enforce his intimidating fear on Hezekiah, to not be attacked by Hezekiah from the rear, so he sent messengers again. vs. 9c-d
- 4) By repeating arrogant words against God. vs. 10-13
 - a) Charging Yahweh with being a deceiver. vs. 10
 - b) Rebuking Hezekiah with ignoring the successful history of Assyria. vs. 11
 - c) Challenging Yahweh. vs. 12
* The area of northern Mesopotamia.
 - d) Attempting to intimidate Hezekiah. vs. 13

19:14-37 The deliverance of Jerusalem.

19:14-28 The prayer of Hezekiah. 2Kings 14-28

- 1) Hezekiah himself petitioned God. vs. 14-19

- a) He went to the temple presenting the blasphemous words of Sennacherib. vs. 14
- b) Hezekiah approached acknowledging the unique greatness of the covenant God enthroned in heaven over all, as Creator. vs. 15
- c) Hezekiah pleaded with God to hear the blasphemous word against the living God. vs. 16
* Opposed to the dead idol gods!
- d) Hezekiah confessed the victories of Assyria over the nations. vs. 17
- e) Hezekiah recognized the reason was because the gods of the heathen are dead idols. vs. 18
- f) Hezekiah requested their deliverance for His glory. vs. 19

19:20-28 Hezekiah received an answer from God, through Isaiah.

- 1) The God of Israel, Yahweh, accepted the petition of Hezekiah against Sennacherib. vs. 20
- 2) The words of Yahweh to King Sennacherib are recorded. vs. 21-28
 - a) God pointed out the outcome would be the reverse, Judah would be untouched, as a virgin, snubbing him. vs. 21

- b) God pointed out his arrogance was against God, not the people, “the Holy One of Israel.” vs. 22
 * A phrase often used by Isaiah for God, 27 times, only 5 in the rest of Scripture!
- c) God pointed out Sennacherib’s boast in his military. vs. 23-24
- d) God pointed out that Sennacherib was merely the instrument of God. vs. 25
 * Isaiah confirms this truth. Is. 10:5-12
- e) God pointed out He was the reason for Sennacherib’s success. vs. 26
- f) God pointed out His Omniscience about his every step and arrogance against God. vs. 27
- g) God pointed out He was in control of leaders in history, including him and God would defeat him. vs. 28
 * Hook in the nose was a custom of taking away captives. Amos 4:2

19:29-31 Hezekiah was promised by God the people would still be present in three years.

- 1) They would be around by their distinct ability to so and reap their crops. vs. 29
 * They had been harassed and oppressed continually, unable to work their fields.

- 2) They would see Jerusalem retain her inhabitants, the faithful remnant. vs. 30
- 3) They would see God fulfill it at the hand of the Captain of the armies of heave, Yahweh. vs. 31

19:32-24 Hezekiah was promised by God the city would be protected by Him.

- 1) The prophecy was very specific, not a general one, not an arrow or man would come against the city, using their usual tactics of building mounds to scale the walls. vs. 32
- 2) The prophecy declared the withdrawal of Sennacherib by the authority of God. vs. 33
- 3) The prophecy would be fulfilled by god protecting His city for His sake and David His servant. vs. 34

19:35-37 Hezekiah witnessed the promise of God come true.

- 1) Through the agency of an angel who would destroy 185,000 front-line Assyrian troop in one night. sparing only a few to witness the power of God. vs. 35
 - a) The angel of the LORD went out, at time is indicative of a Christophany in the Old Testament.” vs. 35a
 - b) Herodotus refers to an infestation of mice at the Pilusium when these

vermin nibbled the quivers,
bowstrings, and shield handles.

* This is recorded in three accounts, I
believer, so as to bring no doubt to
it. 2Chron. 32:21, Is. 37:36

- 2) Through the departure of Sennacherib to
Nineveh. vs. 36
- 3) Through the death of Sennacherib, as he
worshipping in the temple of Nisroch,
where two of his sons assassinated him.
vs. 37
 - * Just as prophesied, 20 years later, 681
B.C. 2kings 19:7
 - a) The succession of Sennacherib was by
one of his sons, “Then Esarhaddon his
son reigned in his place.” vs. 37d
 - b) He was the youngest son and was
opposed by the older brothers, but to
no avail!
 - c) Animosity and hatred was so great that
Ahurbanipal, Esarhaddon’s son and
successor, had to deal with his uncles
who were still resentful because
Sennacherib had bypassed them.