

MBC Student Ministry

High School Sunday School Class Notes

Lesson 6.2 Archaeology

Mrs. Pam Luttner's notes

2 Kings 20:12-21 NIV

12) At that time Marduk-Baladan son of Baladan king of Babylon sent Hezekiah letters and a gift, because he had heard of Hezekiah's illness.

13) Hezekiah received the envoys and showed them all that was in his storehouses—the silver, the gold, the spices and the fine olive oil—his armory and everything found among his treasures. There was nothing in his palace or in all his kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them.

14) Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah and asked, “What did those men say, and where did they come from?” “From a distant land,” Hezekiah replied. “They came from Babylon.”

15) The prophet asked, “What did they see in your palace?” “They saw everything in my palace,” Hezekiah said. “There is nothing among my treasures that I did not show them.”

16) Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the Lord :

17) The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your predecessors have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the Lord .

18) And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”

19) “The word of the Lord you have spoken is good,” Hezekiah replied. For he thought, “Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?”

20) As for the other events of Hezekiah's reign, all his achievements and how he made the pool and the tunnel by which he brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?

21) Hezekiah rested with his ancestors. And Manasseh his son succeeded him as king.

What does it say? (Background on Hezekiah's Illness)

- 1) Hezekiah became ill to the point of death. The prophet Isaiah came to King Hezekiah and told him to put his house in order because he is going to die and will not recover.
- 2) King Hezekiah prays to the Lord
- 3) King Hezekiah appeals to the Lord to remember the time that he was faithful to the Lord and wept bitterly.
- 4) Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the Lord comes to Isaiah
- 5) God tells Isaiah to go back with a message to King Hezekiah that He has heard Hezekiah's prayers and seen his tears and will the Lord will heal him. Isaiah tells him that on the 3rd day from that day he will go to the temple of the Lord.
- 6) God tells Hezekiah through Isaiah that he will add 15 years to his life and will deliver him and his city (Judah) from the hand of the king of Assyria for His sake and for the sake of His servant David.
- 7) Isaiah instructs that a poultice of figs be prepared and applied to Hezekiah's boil.
- 8) Hezekiah asks Isaiah what will be the sign that the Lord will heal him?
- 9) Isaiah tells Hezekiah that the sign to him is: Shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or shall it go back ten steps.
- 10) Hezekiah responds that it is simple for the shadow to move forward 10 steps. Have it go back 10 steps.
- 11) Isaiah calls on the Lord and the Lord made the shadow go back 10 steps.
- 12) The King of Babylon sends Hezekiah letters and a gift when he hears of Hezekiah's illness.

- 13) Hezekiah receives the envoys and shows off all his riches and treasures in the palace and storehouses.
- 14) Isaiah asks King Hezekiah who the men were and where they came from. King Hezekiah tells Isaiah they came from Babylon.
- 15) Isaiah asks what they saw and King Hezekiah tells him they saw everything, there was nothing he did not show them.
- 16) Isaiah then tells King Hezekiah the word of the Lord that has come to him.
- 17) The time will come when everything in King Hezekiah's palace will be carried off to Babylon, nothing will remain.
- 18) King Hezekiah's descendants will be carried away and will become eunuchs in the palace of the King of Babylon.
- 19) King Hezekiah thinks that the word of the Lord is good and thinks it means there will be peace and security.
- 20) During Hezekiah's reign he made the pool and the tunnel by which he brought water into the city.
- 21) Hezekiah dies and his son Manasseh becomes King.

What does it mean?

Up until this time we have seen King Hezekiah as an effective reformer who cleansed and consecrated the temple and restored the priestly ministry. But Hezekiah the negotiator paid Assyria to avoid war instead of looking to God for wisdom and protection. Then God sent a severe illness to Hezekiah to humble him.

Hezekiah cried out to God for mercy, and God, being the faithful God He is, has mercy. After being told he would receive additional years and be healed, Hezekiah's pride once again gets in his way. Hezekiah shows off all his treasures which were sacred and accumulated because of his obedience to God. Hezekiah was naïve to think that the Babylonians came as true friends out of concern. This was an expedition for the Babylonians to scope out the extent of Hezekiah's wealth and strength as a future foe in war.

So what? There is still much to learn about all the details of the rise and fall of the kings of Israel, Judah, Assyria and Babylon. Why do we have the details of the treasures amassed by Hezekiah and the details about the tunnel that was dug to bring water into the city?

These details are extremely important because they lend credibility to the Bible. These details allow us to fact-check for accuracy and demonstrate their reliability as a source of valid history.

Over the centuries discoveries have corroborated many events from the Bible like ancient inscriptions, ossuaries, even a toilet?!?

In 2009 an excavation at the foot of the wall of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem uncovered a clay impression of King Hezekiah's royal seal, the first seal to be discovered from a King of Israel or Judah. This royal seal and the aqueducts built to bring water into Jerusalem stand today as clear evidence that the kings and events written of in Scripture reflect actual events, actual construction projects, and real life kings.

For centuries skeptics have doubted the history of the Bible. Although many questions remain, archaeology has been confirming the people and places within it. With each discovery we can gain more confidence that the biblical authors have relayed true facts about God's work throughout history.

Life Application:

We also see again the mercy of God for those who love Him. Hezekiah started out being obedient to God and along the way he forgot where his success came from. He had been protected by God for his obedience. When he got sick, he called on God and God had mercy on him and added years to his life.

Remember Jonah? Remember how his disobedience landed him in the belly of a fish. At this point he remembers God and God has mercy on him. Once again we see God as a compassionate, loving, forgiving and merciful God.

Hezekiah also shows his pride when he is showing the Babylonians all his treasures. He was bragging. Once again, he shows disrespect to God for not

giving Him the glory for his provisions. This boastfulness would lead to the capture of all his possessions at a later time after his death.

To love God is to have confidence in His word. You cannot love God without confidence in His word. His word tells us Who He is. We don't worship the word, we worship who it tells us God is, who Jesus is, and who the Holy Spirit is. It tells us what God wanted us to know. No more, no less, do not add anything to the word or take anything away from the word. That is why it is so important to read, study, reread the word of God. It's like His diary. It's how we get to know Him more and more intimately.

2 Chronicles 32:24-33 NIV

24) 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.

25) But Hezekiah's heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the Lord's wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.

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

27) Hezekiah had very great wealth and honor, and he made treasuries for his silver and gold and for his precious stones, spices, shields and all kinds of valuables.

28) He also made buildings to store the harvest of grain, new wine and olive oil; and he made stalls for various kinds of cattle, and pens for the flocks.

29) He built villages and acquired great numbers of flocks and herds, for God had given him very great riches.

30) It was Hezekiah who blocked the upper outlet of the Gihon spring and channeled the water down to the west side of the City of David. He succeeded in everything he undertook.

31) But when envoys were sent by the rulers of Babylon to ask him about the miraculous sign that had occurred in the land, God left him to test him and to know everything that was in his heart.

32) The other events of Hezekiah's reign and his acts of devotion are written in the vision of the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

33) Hezekiah rested with his ancestors and was buried on the hill where the tombs of David's descendants are. All Judah and the people of Jerusalem honored him when he died. And Manasseh his son succeeded him as king.

The Bible: Written over a span of 1500 years by 40 writers.

Historians and archaeologists have repeatedly confirmed its authenticity.

Pool of Bethesda talks about five porticos (or walkways) where John tells of Jesus healing a cripple. Scholars didn't think the pool existed, until archaeologists found it forty feet below ground, complete with the five porticoes.

Pastor Kris Hutchinson's Notes

2 Kings 20:12-21

Summary

- 12) The son of the Babylonian king heard about Hezekiah's illness and sent him letters and a gift
- 13) When the messengers arrived, Hezekiah brought them in and showed them everything in his storehouse, palace, and all the kingdom.
- 14) The prophet Isaiah questioned Hezekiah about who these men were and where they came from. Hezekiah told Isaiah they were from Babylon.
- 15) Isaiah asked what they had been shown. Hezekiah told him they were shown everything.
- 16) Isaiah began to tell Hezekiah a message from God
- 17) There will come a day when the Babylonians will come and take everything from your palace into Babylon.
- 18) As will some of your descendants.
- 19) Hezekiah responded positively because he figured it would be after his lifetime.
- 20) Other events and achievements in Hezekiah's life like the pool and the tunnel are recorded elsewhere (Annals of the Kings of Judah).
- 21) Hezekiah died and his son Manasseh became king.

Meaning

- 12) It might appear to be that the Babylonians "cared" about Hezekiah and his welfare (or they saw their chance)
- 13) Hezekiah was either boastful or naive toward the Babylonians
- 14) Isaiah suspected something wasn't right about these people
- 15) Isaiah was seeking to gather as much intel as possible
- 16) Isaiah relayed a message from God
- 17) Babylon did not care about Hezekiah. They had their own mission and purpose - to take over Judah.
- 18) The people would be taken into Babylon too.
- 19) Hezekiah seems to have shrugged off the future problem because it was just that "in the future" - it didn't affect him.
- 20) Hezekiah had many other accomplishments which have been recorded elsewhere.
- 21) The line of Hezekiah continued through Manasseh.

Application

- 12) What is our purpose in reaching out to others?
- 13) How do we treat guests? How do we know they don't have bad intentions?
- 14) How do we respond to Godly counsel? Do we have Godly people around us to give us counsel?
- 15) When I suspect suspicious behavior or bad intentions, how much do I ask? What kind of questions do I ask to get to the bottom of something?
- 16) How do I know the difference between my opinion and God's Word on a matter?

- 17) This world is temporary which includes my stuff. Are my intentions/care for people genuine and sincere?
- 18) How are others impacted because of my behavior?
- 19) Do I care what happens after me? How do I create a positive legacy and not one of destruction?
- 20) Historical evidence for Hezekiah and other achievements.
- 21) There is a line of succession which can be tracked and traced.

2 Chronicles 32:24-33

Summary

- 24) Just after God delivered Judah from Assyria, Hezekiah became deathly ill. Hezekiah prayed to the Lord for healing and he was.
- 25) Hezekiah did not respond humbly to his healing and God's wrath was on him on his kingdom.
- 26) Hezekiah and his people repented for their pride and God spared them during Hezekiah's lifetime.
- 27) Hezekiah was rich and had great wealth and stored in treasuries.
- 28) He also built stores for his food, drink, and animals.
- 29) Hezekiah built villages and acquired more animals because God had blessed him with these riches.
- 30) Hezekiah blocked up the spring and rerouted it to the west side of the city. He was successful in all he did.
- 31) The Babylonians showed up to witness the miraculous things that were happening in Jerusalem, and God left Hezekiah in order to test and know his heart.
- 32) More about Hezekiah's reign and acts are recorded elsewhere: the vision of the prophet Isaiah son of Amos (in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.
- 33) Hezekiah died and was buried on the hill of David's descendants, and all the people of Jerusalem honored him. His son Manasseh succeeded him as king.

Meaning

- 24) Hezekiah knew God held the power to heal, and God did.
- 25) Hezekiah realized his need for God and then acted pridefully as if he had healed himself which brought the promise of God's wrath.
- 26) Hezekiah realized his mistake and repented. He led others to repent as well. God showed mercy.
- 27) Hezekiah was rich and had lots of material possessions.
- 28) He built buildings to hold his stuff.
- 29) God provided these riches and more.
- 30) Hezekiah was successful in many endeavors including creating a better water supply.

- 31) Babylonians were curious about what was going on here, and God used this event to test the purity of Hezekiah's heart.
- 32) More has been written about Hezekiah.
- 33) The people honored Hezekiah in death. Gives a general location of where Hezekiah was buried, and a royal lineage.

Application

- 24) What do I know about God? When do I reach out to God? What is my motivation for coming to God?
- 25) How do I respond to God's mercy? How do I respond when someone helps me out of a situation I can't get myself out of? When do I boast most often? Why do I boast in the first place?
- 26) Do I realize when I have made a mistake? How quick am I to repent? How does my example of humility and repentance affect others? How has God shown me His mercy?
- 27) What do I prize most? What do I value in my life? What is most important?
- 28) What I am willing to do to protect them?
- 29) How do I view God in the midst of my material blessings? Is there anything wrong with "having stuff"? What has God provided me?
- 30) What is my legacy?
- 31) Where is my heart? Am I aligned with God? What does God think of me? What is my motivation for interacting with others?
- 32) How much proof do I need, for anything?
- 33) How will I be remembered? What is my legacy?