

“Historical Books Of The Bible”
2 Kings 18-19
Wednesday March 15, 2017

2 Kings 18:1-8

Hezekiah – means “the Lord strengthens.”

The sequence of events in Hezekiah’s life, as recorded in Scripture, is not strictly chronological. The events recorded in **Isaiah 38-39** – his illness and his welcome of the Babylonian ambassadors – actually predated the Assyrian invasion, **Isaiah 36-37**.

2 Kings 1-17 – Israel to Deportation to Assyria, 131 years, 853-722 BC.

2 Kings 18-25 – Judah to Deportation to Babylon, 155 years, 715-560 BC.

2 Kings 18:1-7 – Summary of Hezekiah’s Reign: 2 Kings 18:1-2 – His reign was 29 years over Judah. The supplemental or cross-references are in 2 Chronicles 29:1-31:21; 32:24-26; Isaiah 38.

2 Kings 18:3-4

2 Kings has but one verse describing Hezekiah’s reforms, 2 Kings 18:4, while 2 Chronicles devotes 3 chapters to this important part of his life. 2 Chronicles 29:1-31:21; 32:24-26.

“Nehushstan” – probably means “a piece of bronze, a brass thing”, Numbers 21:9.

Hezekiah cleansed the temple, 2 Chronicles 29:3-19.

Hezekiah consecrated the temple, 2 Chronicles 29:20-36.

Hezekiah celebrated Passover, 2 Chronicles 30:1-27.

Hezekiah commenced and organized the temple ministry, 2 Chronicles 31:1-21.

2 Kings 18:5-6

2 Kings 18:7-16 – Hezekiah The Negotiator: 2 Kings 18:7.

Judah had been a vassal state – persons granted the use of land in return for rendering homage.

2 Kings 18:8

2 Kings 18:9-12 – The reason that the North tribes of Israel went into captivity through Assyria is because they disobeyed the Lord, they broke the covenant, would not listen or obey God, 2 Kings 17:1-6.

2 Kings 18:13-16 – Judah Under Siege.

Hezekiah's faith was very weak, so he humbled himself before the king and paid the tribute money that he owed – 11 tons of silver and 1 ton of gold.

2 Kings 20:1-11; 2 Chron. 32:24-26; Isa. 38:1-8 – Hezekiah The Sufferer: Hezekiah's sickness and healing, as well as the visit of the Babylonian ambassadors, occurred in the year 702 B.C. The next year, the Assyrians returned and attacked Jerusalem.

2 Kings 18:17-36 – 1st the field commander spoke to Hezekiah and the Jews, and blasphemed their God.

These are titles and not personal names: "Tartan" = "supreme commander", "Rab-saris" = "chief officer" and "Rabshakeh" = "field commander".

2 Chronicles 31:20-21

2 Chronicles 32:1

Alexander Maclaren, "how good men come to be troubled, and how bad men come to be prosperous."

2 Kings 18:18

Representing Hezekiah were Eliakim, the palace administrator, Shebna, the secretary, and Joah, the recorder, Isaiah 22:15-25; 36:3.

2 Kings 18:19-26

Assyrians wanted the people on the wall to hear what was going on, because they wanted to frighten them.

2 Kings 18:27-28

Notice how he tried to belittle Hezekiah by calling Sennacherib "the great king".

2 Kings 18:29-30 – Prophet Isaiah had told Hezekiah that God would defend Jerusalem and destroy the Assyrians (2 Kings 20:6; Isaiah 38:4-6), and it was this promise that the king gave to the people.

2 Kings 18:31-35

Rabshakeh had reproached the true and living God by daring to associate and compare Him with the dead idols of the nations.

2 Kings 18:36-37

“with their clothes torn” – In humility before the Lord and in acknowledgement of their own helplessness.

Two key words – “Trust”, Verses 5, 19, 20, 21, 22, 30; “Deliverance”, Verses 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35.

2 Kings 19:1-19 – Hezekiah Responded With Prayer In The Temple:
2 Kings 19:1.

“Sackcloth” – a symbol of debasement, mourning, and/or repentance.

2 Kings 19:2 – This is the first mention of Isaiah in 2 Kings.

2 Kings 19:3 – Mother and child’s life is in the balance; to have gone through the difficulty of pregnancy and then not have the strength to deliver the baby!

2 Kings 19:4-10

“Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you” – Note how this sin is growing – 2 Kings 18:29.

2 Kings 19:11-13

2 Kings 19:14-19 – Hezekiah’s Prayer: 2 Kings 19:14 – Took it to the Lord!

2 Kings 19:15-19 – A prayer for the glory of God! That all might know You!

2 Kings 19:20-34 – God spoke to Hezekiah through Isaiah the Prophet:
2 Kings 19:20-22; “the virgin, the daughter of Zion” – the city of Jerusalem.

2 Kings 19:23 – God had used Assyria to chasten the Northern kingdom of Israel, and the Lord had given Sennacherib victory over other nations, but the Assyrian king had never given God the glory.

2 Kings 19:24-28 – God would humble Assyria and they themselves would become victims, Amos 4:2.

2 Kings 19:29-30 – Over 3 years, it would return to normal.

2 Kings 19:31-35

The Rabshakeh had boasted that one of the Assyrian junior officers was stronger than 2,000 Jewish charioteers (2 Chronicles 36:8-9), but when the Lord wanted to wipe out 185,000 enemy soldiers, all He had to do was send one of His angels!

2 Kings 19:36-37

Application:

1. Our God Is The True Creator In A Class By Himself. As Creator, Only He Can Control History Thus Defeating The Assyrians.
2. We Learn Through Hezekiah, When We Allow God To Have His Way, The Trials Of Life Work For Us And Not Against Us. Those Trials Will Bring Great Glory To The Lord.
3. God Is Faithful, He Will Always Keep His Promise. God's Promise To Deliver His People From Their Enemies In 2 Kings 17:39 Is Fulfilled In 2 Kings 19.