

2 Kings 18-19 – Chapter Study

INTRODUCTION

We ended our study in 2 Kings last time with the defeat of the Northern Kingdom of Israel by the brutal Assyrians.

The Assyrians had a policy of shuffling the populations of their conquered territories as a way to control them.

They made most of the wealthy & middle class families move to entirely new regions as a way to forestall rebellion.

The idea was these misplaced people would be so busy learning to adapt to their new home they'd have no ability to create trouble for their Assyrian masters.

They'd also developed torture into an *art* & used it as a formal policy to control.

They literally put those they defeated in *utter terror* of what would happen to them if they displeased the Assyrians.

So when Israel fell to the Assyrians, a large part of the populace was deported & resettled hundreds of miles northeast.

Other conquered people were then settled into Israel which was renamed Samaria after the capital city.

These newcomers intermarried with the few poor Jewish families who were left.

These newcomers had their own gods, but thinking according to ancient custom, they wanted to learn about the God of the Jews whom they believed held some power over their new land.

They ended up mixing ideas about Yahweh with their religions & produced a mish-mash faith that lasted into the time of Christ.

We see Jesus encountering the Samaritan religion in John 4.

Though Israel was now defeated & carried into exile, the Southern Kingdom of Judah under the reign of David's descendants lives on.

But a corrupt king named Ahaz has brought great trouble to the nation by installing widespread idolatry & foolish political alliances.

When Ahaz died, it was a relief as he did more to bring corruption to Judah than any previous king.

His son, Hezekiah was a good king who presided over a time of genuine revival in Judah.

XX. HEZEKIAH (JUDAH) 18-20

A. A Good King 18:1-8

¹ Now it came to pass in the 3rd year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign.

Hezekiah began his reign just 3 years prior to the Assyrian siege of Samaria.

In the 6th year of his reign, Israel fell. These were desperate, difficult times.

² He was 25 years old when he became king, and he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. ³ And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.

With some of the good kings, it simply says they did what was right in the sight of the

Lord.

But of Hezekiah it adds that he did as his great ancestor David had done.

These 2 men were cut from the same spiritual cloth, they shared the same sense of dedication to God.

4 He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.

Hezekiah did what no other king had dared to do – he prohibited the use of high places in worship.

God had made it clear all formal worship to Him was to be offered only at the temple in Jerusalem.

Over the years, people had built their own local shrines on the tops of hills closer to home where they offered sacrifices & burnt incense.

This was such a widespread practice, previous kings & even the high priests had thought there was no way they could stop it.

Hezekiah's attitude was different – it didn't matter how many high places there were or who was worshipping at them; it was contrary to God's command so it must stop.

As the king whose duty it was to govern according to the authority given him by God, he used it to enforce God's will.

Besides the high places, there was another troubling matter Hezekiah attended to.

Some 800 years before during the Exodus, the Israelites complained so loudly against God He sent a plague of poisonous serpents among them.

The bite was fatal after a time of lingering agony.

Moses then made a bronze likeness of one of the serpents & lifted it up on a wooden pole in the center of the camp.

All anyone who was bitten had to do to find relief was to look at the image.

It was all meant to be a picture of Christ who was made sin for us and was lifted up on the cross to die in our place.

Salvation comes from simply looking to & trusting in Him.

Jesus even made reference to this in John 3:14

But by Hezekiah's time, the bronze serpent had become an object of religious superstition & veneration.

People were worshipping it – thinking it held some kind of magical power.

Though it had been a good thing at one time, it had become a distraction that distorted people's ideas about God – so Hezekiah got rid of it.

This was a pretty gutsy move on his part because it was an ancient artifact – something that the great Moses himself had made.

It played an important part in Israel's history.

But the danger it presented outweighed any benefit in keeping it – so difficult as it no doubt was, Hezekiah destroyed it.

They called it "Nehushtan" = Bronze thing. It sounds like the word for serpent = Nahash. Some scholars think Nehushtan literally meant "bronze snake."

Though the people called it that & that's in fact all it was, they'd made it into

something more in their imaginations.

They attributed special power to it they though they could tap in to by treating it as an object to venerate.

When Hezekiah destroyed it, he proved it really was just “Nehushtan,” just a piece of metal.

Even in the wilderness 88 years before, it had possessed no power.

It was merely the means by which people could indicate their looking to God for His salvation.

This story reminds us of the *caution* we need when it comes to investing things with spiritual power or meaning.

For hundreds of years during the Middle Ages, the Church made the veneration of relics a major part of the Faith.

Cathedrals & shrines were the goal of millions of pilgrimages as people would travel hundreds of miles just to be near the reliquary that held the body part of some saint or apostle.

There were enough so-called pieces of the true Cross to could have made an entire house.

In modern times, there’s been a massive controversy over the Shroud of Turin.

Could it be the burial cloth of Jesus? Maybe, maybe not.

The real question is – what difference does it make?

The moment it becomes anything other than a piece of ancient cloth, it becomes a distraction – a Nehushtan.

As solid protestant evangelicals, we don’t truck with religious relics or icons.

But the danger of venerating some created thing is no less present with us.

What we tend to venerate are those men & women who are being used by God in a powerful way.

They become our Nehushtan.

We give them a status beyond what’s appropriate and render them a kind of honor unfitting a mortal.

Then, if & when they prove to have feet of clay & mess up, our faith comes stumbling down with them.

It is good & right to honor the work of God in and through one of His servants.

But always remember – they are human just like everyone else and prone to the same temptations as all.

⁵ He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him. ⁶ For he held fast to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses. ⁷ The LORD was with him; he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

His father Ahaz had made Judah into a vassal of the Assyrians.

Hezekiah took the nation out from under Assyrian domination.

We have little idea of how gutsy this was.

Assyria was THE BIG BOY BULLY on the block and not at all hesitant to throw it's weight around as the conquest of Israel had just proven.

Yet Hezekiah threw off the Assyrian yoke, knowing it was not of God.

He trusted that having done the right thing politically, God would take care of them militarily & economically.

As indeed He did!

8 He subdued the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

Judah's weakness during the previous kings had allowed the remnant of the Philistines who lived along the coast to assert their independence from Judah.

Hezekiah put them back under vassalage.

B. Assyria Attacks Judah 18:9-19:37

1. Shalmaneser's Campaign against Israel 18:9-12

9 Now it came to pass in the 4th year of King Hezekiah, which was the 7th year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it. ¹⁰ And at the end of 3 years they took it. In the 6th year of Hezekiah, that is, the 9th year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken. ¹¹ Then the king of Assyria carried Israel away captive to Assyria, and put them in Halah and by 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 *and* all that Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded; and they would neither hear nor do *them*.

The conquest of Israel is repeated here because of the impact it had on Judah & Hezekiah's reign.

2. Sennacherib's campaign against Judah 18:13-16

13 And in the 14th year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.

This was of course because Hezekiah had rejected his vassalage to the Assyrians.

They come now to make a *total conquest* of Judah.

Their victory was nearly total; the only city left was Jerusalem.

This moves Hezekiah to a *moment of doubt* over whether or not he's been *right* in throwing off the Assyrian yoke.

Maybe being a vassal was God's will & His judgment for Judah's past sins.

Being a man of faith in God as David was doesn't mean he was perfect.

Even David had his moments of doubt

14 Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; turn away from me; whatever you impose on me I will pay." And the king of Assyria assessed Hezekiah king of Judah 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold. ¹⁵ So 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 pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.*

This tribute was back pay for the time Judah had failed to send it along with a fine for rebelling.

What's interesting is the reference here to Lachish.

Lachish was a major fortification 30 miles SW that guarded the approach to Jerusalem.

With its fall, the Fall of Jerusalem was virtually guaranteed.

This is why Hezekiah sends this message of capitulation.

He's not fully surrendering; he's merely offering to return to vassalage under Sennacherib.

What makes this so interesting is in the ruins of the Assyrian capital at Nineveh was found a massive wall relief of the battle at Lachish.

It's from this mural, which is now in the British Museum in London, that we know all about how the Assyrians made war & why they were so successful.

The Assyrian account of the conquest of Lachish is considered one of the most important ancient artifacts in the study of ancient warfare.

3. *Laying siege to Jerusalem 18:17-37*

¹⁷ Then the king of Assyria sent *the Tartan, the Rabsaris, and the Rabshakeh from Lachish, with a great army against Jerusalem, to King Hezekiah.*

These were political & military officers acting as spokesmen for Sennacherib.

And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they had come up, they went and stood by the aqueduct from the upper pool, which was on the highway to the Fuller's Field.

They assembled in a place outside the city wall where the army would be close at hand and they could address a large number of people who would be standing on the wall.

Their goal was to foment a movement inside Jerusalem that would lead to Hezekiah's ouster & gain the opening of Jerusalem's gates.

The Assyrians had just had a tough go of it in taking Lachish – Jerusalem would be far worse.

So they decided to try a little politicking to see if they could avoid a long siege.

¹⁸ **And when they had called to the king, Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to them.**

When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had sent officials instead of coming himself, he sent *his* officers to deal with the Assyrians.

¹⁹ Then *the Rabshakeh* said to them, "Say now to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: "What confidence *is* this in which you trust?

²⁰ You speak of *having* plans and power for war; but *they are* mere words.

And in whom do you trust, that you rebel against me? ²¹ Now look! You are trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So *is* Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in

him.

Actually, Hezekiah had **NOT** made an alliance with the Egyptians who were even then gear up for war with the Assyrians.

Hezekiah had been trusting solely on the Lord until his recent doubts.

The Assyrians couldn't believe that Judah would try to go it alone without aligning itself with one of the other major players.

So in a wild guess, this Assyrian official acted as though he was well informed on Hezekiah's plans, as though they had spies in his court.

But this reference to an alliance with Egypt actually proved the Assyrians were *clueless*.

Covering all his bases, the Assyrians went on -

22 But if you say to me, 'We trust in the LORD our God,' is it not He whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away, and said to Judah and Jerusalem, 'You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem'?" '

Again, this guy thinks he's *undercutting* Hezekiah's support by the people of Jerusalem by saying Hezekiah had desecrated Yahweh's worship centers.

The people knew better. As residents of Jerusalem, they knew that the temple was to only place they were to worship.

So this attack on Hezekiah's credibility actually strengthened him before the people as it reminded them of His devotion to God.

And when it was reported to Hezekiah, I wonder if it didn't encourage him too as it would remind him of the steps of obedience he'd taken.

Certainly God could take care of Himself in the face of this Assyrian assault.

The Assyrians simply overplayed their hand here.

In making their boast – they actually revealed the *weakness* of their position.

The enemy often does that. He's very clever & subtle, but he cannot read our minds.

He can make a good guess what we are thinking about because so often he tempts us and suggests what we ought to dwell on.

But he can't read our minds and know with certainty what we're thinking.

He isn't omniscient.

So sometime, he suggests something or throws a temptation across your path that is simply way beyond the pale and you stop & go, "Wait a minute? That's absurd! That's so blatant, I KNOW the origin of THAT! What Satan – you think I'm STUPID?"

That's what happened to Joseph when Mrs. Potipher tried to seduce him.

It says she was going after him day after day with her sly little attempts to get him into bed.

Then she decided to go with a less subtle, more brazen invitation, grabbed him and said, "Take me!"

Joe knew exactly what was happening and took appropriate action – he tore out of there – literally!

I find those time when the devil overplays his hand way gratifying because it reminds me he's not SO good at what he does that he can't be defeated.

Even after 6000 years. He still messes up – a LOT!

23 Now therefore, I urge you, give a pledge to my master the king of Assyria,

and I will give you 2000 horses—if you are able on your part to put riders on them! ²⁴ How then will you repel one captain of the least of my master’s servants, and put your trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen?

Here’s another guess on his part – that most of Judah’s troops had already been committed to defending against the Assyrians & there weren’t enough left to defend Jerusalem.

He says, “We’ll arm what’s left of your army –then send them out and let’s get this thing over with.”

This is similar to saying, “TO make it fair, I’ll fight with one arm tied behind my back.”

It was a taunt.

You see, really – the Assyrians were trying to get the Jews to give up without a fight.

They were using fear & discouragement to get them to just give in.

The devil does the same thing. He doesn’t want to enter into battle with us because he knows as we look to the Lord, he’s lost.

So he does his best to lie & cajole and get us to give up out of fear & discouragement.

Then the Assyrian official pulls out his trump card -

²⁵ Have I now come up without the LORD against this place to destroy it? The LORD said to me, ‘Go up against this land, and destroy it.’ ”

“God is against you! God doesn’t love you. He’s abandoned you.

How could the things that have happened do so unless God willed & wanted it?”

Once again we see how the enemy lies about & mis-represents God, just as he did in Eden. Christian, when your circumstances suggest a *questioning* of the goodness & love of God, remember this – You’re in the middle, not the end of the story.

Every good story has pages where the main character goes through hardship & trial.

It’s the challenge & difficulty that make the victory that much sweeter & the lesson more powerful.

²⁶ Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, Shebna, and Joah said to *the* Rabshakeh, “Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand *it*; and do not speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people who *are* on the wall.”

They knew the Assyrians were trying to foment rebellion so they asked them to use their mother tongue instead.

²⁷ But *the* Rabshakeh said to them, “Has my master sent me to your master and to you to speak these words, and not to the men who sit on the wall, who will eat and drink their own waste with you?”

They made no secret of their strategy.

²⁸ Then *the* Rabshakeh stood and called out with a loud voice in Hebrew, and spoke, saying, “Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria! ²⁹ Thus says the king: ‘Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he shall not be able to deliver you from his hand; ³⁰ nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, “The LORD will surely deliver us; this city shall 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 peace with me by a present and come out to

me; and every one of you eat from his own vine and every one from his own fig tree, and every one of you drink the waters of his own cistern; ³² until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive groves and honey, that you may live and not die. But do not listen to Hezekiah, lest he persuade you, saying, “The LORD will deliver us.” ³³ Has any of the gods of the nations at all delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria? ³⁴ Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim and Hena and Ivah? Indeed, have they delivered Samaria from my hand? ³⁵ Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?’ ” ³⁶ But the people held their peace and answered him not a word; for the king’s commandment was, “Do not answer him.” ³⁷ Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with *their* clothes torn, and told him the words of *the* Rabshakeh.

Hezekiah & his entire court no doubt held their breath to see if the people of Jerusalem would rise against them and rush to open the city gates to the Assyrians. Fortunately, there was no such move.

4. *Isaiah prophesies an Assyrian defeat 19:1-7*

¹ And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard *it*, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. ² Then he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz.

Probably the main reason why Hezekiah was such a good king after his father Ahaz had been such a wicked man was because of the influence of the prophet Isaiah who remained close to Hezekiah.

³ And they said to him, “Thus says Hezekiah: ‘This day *is* a day of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but *there is* no strength to bring them forth. ⁴ It may be that the LORD your God will hear all the words of *the* Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the LORD your God has heard. Therefore lift up *your* prayer for the remnant that is left.’ ” ⁵ So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah. ⁶ And Isaiah said to them, “Thus you shall say to your master, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.

The word “servants” here is a humorous. It’s literally – “lads” but in the context & because of the actual guys it refers to, the connotation is – errand-boys; flunkies.

These guys had acted all pompous & arrogant, making their haughty demands for surrender.

They were just clueless errand-boys.

7 Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.” ’ ’

By the word of prophecy, Isaiah told Hezekiah that the threatened siege of Jerusalem would be thwarted.

Sennacherib would hear of troubles at home he would need to return to deal with.

5. Sennacherib's threat 19:8-13

8 Then *the* Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah, for he heard that he had departed from Lachish. 9 And the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, “Look, he has come out to make war with you.”

At this time in Egypt's history, the Ethiopians controlled the throne.

This is **NOT** the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in v. 7 – that came later.

This is the invasion from the Egyptians the Assyrians knew would eventually come. Libnah was 6 miles further along the road toward Jerusalem from Lachish, so it seems Sennacherib was planning on bringing the full army up to lay siege to Jerusalem.

But the advance of the Egyptians meant redeploying their troops to deal with the threat coming from the south.

So he again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, 10 “Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying: ‘Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, “Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.” 11 Look! You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by utterly destroying them; and shall you be delivered? 12 Have the gods of the nations delivered those whom my fathers have destroyed, Gozan and Haran and Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? 13 Where *is* the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah?’ ”

The Assyrians see act as though this attack by Egypt is merely a distraction to their conquest of Jerusalem.

They're playing a mighty game of psychological warfare with Hezekiah.

6. Hezekiah's request 19:14-19

14 And 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. 15 Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: “O LORD God of Israel, *the One who dwells between the cherubim*, You are 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 reproach the living God. 17 Truly, 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 destroyed them. 19 Now

therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone.”

Hezekiah brings a great perspective to Judah’s distress – God let this all be a massive testimony to the world of Your glory & greatness.

7. God’s response 19:20-34

²⁰ Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard.’ ²¹ This is the word which the LORD has spoken concerning him: ‘The virgin, the daughter of Zion, Has despised you, laughed you to scorn; The daughter of Jerusalem Has shaken *her* head behind your back!

This is such a great picture!

Here’s this great, pompous official making grandiose claims, and behind him is an innocent, naïve little girl, of all people, laughing her head off at the him because he’s such a total loser, & he doesn’t even know it.

This is the ultimate scorn – to be mocked at by a little girl.

²² ‘Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised *your* voice, And lifted up your eyes on high? Against the Holy One of Israel. ²³ By your messengers you have reproached the Lord, And said: “By the multitude of my chariots I have come up to the height of the mountains, To the limits of Lebanon; I will cut down its tall cedars *And* its choice cypress trees; I will enter the extremity of its borders, *To* its fruitful forest. ²⁴ I have dug and drunk strange water, And with the soles of my feet I have dried up All the brooks of defense.” ²⁵ ‘Did you not hear long ago *How* I made it, From ancient times that I formed it? Now I have brought it to pass, That you should be For crushing fortified cities *into* heaps of ruins. ²⁶ Therefore their inhabitants had little power; They were dismayed and confounded; They were as the grass of the field And the green herb, As the grass on the housetops And *grain* blighted before it is grown. ²⁷ ‘But I know your dwelling place, Your going out and your coming in, And your rage against Me. ²⁸ Because your rage against Me and your tumult Have come up to My ears, Therefore I will put My hook in your nose And My bridle in your lips, And I will turn you back By the way which you came.

This is an especially poignant image because it’s *exactly* what the Assyrians did to captured royalty to humiliate them.

In the stela of the Assyrians king Esarhaddon, there’s a picture of a long line of royal captives with a fish-hook type deal in their noses, on one long string.

Now God speaks to Hezekiah -

²⁹ ‘This *shall* be a sign to you: You shall eat this year such as grows of itself, And in the second year what springs from the same; Also in the third year sow and reap, Plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them.

The Assyrians invasion & presence meant the people of Judah weren’t able to sow their

fields but had to live off foraging what grew of its own accord.

It took another full year before turmoil back in their homeland resulted in their withdrawal.

³⁰ And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. ³¹ For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, And those who escape from Mount Zion. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.’ ³² “Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: ‘He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor build a siege mound against it. ³³ By the way that he came, by the same shall he return; and he shall not come into this city,’ says the LORD. ³⁴ ‘For I will defend this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.’ ”

8. Defeat of the Assyrians 19:35-37

³⁵ And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians 185,000; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead.

That doesn't mean *every* person died – or there would have been none to arise that morning.

It means there weren't some survivors, some who were ill but not dead.

Every person touched by the pestilence, whatever it was, died.

In an event similar to the death of the first-born in Egypt, in one night the bulk of the Assyrian force laying siege to Jerusalem was wiped out.

The unstoppable Assyrian war machine had been stopped & not by another army but by one angel from God.

The Greek historian Herodotus records that something strange happened to the Assyrian army that required them to end this campaign in Israel and return home.

³⁶ So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh. ³⁷ Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the temple of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

Along with the wall relief documenting Sennacherib's conquest of Lachish was discovered a monument known as the Taylor Prism which is now held in the British Museum.

It contains Sennacherib's arrogant boast.

It says, “I attacked Hezekiah of Judah who had not subjected himself to me, and took 46 fortresses, forts and small cities. I carried away captive 200,150 people, big and small, both male and female, a multitude of horses, young bulls, asses, camels, and oxen. Hezekiah himself I locked up in Jerusalem like a bird in its cage. (*more*)”

What's interesting about this is that *in his boast* he admits he *failed to conquer Jerusalem*.

Indeed, he had to break off the siege when his army was decimated by divine judgment and word reached him that there was trouble at home.

Sennacherib went home, only to suffer the supreme indignity of being murdered by his

own children.

FILENAME * Lower * MERGEFORMAT 2 kings 18.doc • Page - PAGE 13

Feed My Sheep

Feed My Sheep