

# 2 Kings 18-20 & 2 Chronicles 29-32

## Hezekiah

- 25 years old, reigned for 29 years
- Probably viceregent with Ahaz his father and Manasseh his son
- Did what was right – “Best Judahite king ever”
- Reinstated the Jewish religion.
  - Reopened and repaired the temple. Consecrated the Levites and temple again.
  - Removed high places and broke idols.
  - He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it.
  - “You have now dedicated yourselves to the Lord. Come and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the temple of the Lord.”
  - Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people, because it was done so quickly.
- Reinstated nationwide celebration of Passover (north kingdom invited too). First time since Solomon.
  - Removed high places and broke idols throughout Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh
- Assyrian king Shalmaneser conquers Israel and deports the citizens elsewhere in the Assyrian empire.
- Assyrian king Sennacherib invades Judah (siege of Jerusalem 701 BC)
  - Hezekiah pays Sennacherib 11 tons of silver and 1 ton of gold – all the silver from the temple and the palace treasuries. Too little too late because the conquest continues.
  - Hezekiah prepares Jerusalem while the Assyrians siege other fortified cities
    - Blocks all the springs outside Jerusalem
    - Build Siloam Tunnel to bring water into the city
    - Repairs the wall
    - Builds towers
    - Builds the Broad Wall outside the current walls and encompassing much more of Jerusalem. 7 meters thick
    - Reinforced the terraces of the City of David
    - Made weapons and shields
  - Sennacherib reasons with the citizens of Jerusalem.
    - “Do you not know what I and my predecessors have done to all the peoples of the other lands? Were the gods of those nations ever able to deliver their land from my hand? 14 Who of all the gods of these nations that my predecessors destroyed has been able to save his people from me? How then can your god

deliver you from my hand? 15 Now do not let Hezekiah deceive you and mislead you like this. Do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or the hand of my predecessors. How much less will your god deliver you from my hand!"

- Hezekiah lays out the letter in the temple and prays
- Isaiah prophesies the doom of the Assyrian army and Sennacherib the king.
- Yahweh sends an angel to wipe out all the fighting men in Sennacherib's army – 185,000 men.
- Sennacherib retreats to Nineveh and his sons kill him fulfilling the prophecy given by Isaiah
  - Temple of Nisroch, but could be a scribal error for Nimrod since there is no evidence of a Nisroch Assyrian god and the Hebrew is very close.
- The other nations regard him highly and send him valuable gifts
- Hezekiah builds storehouses for the riches and luxury goods. Builds stalls and pens and farming villages for the livestock.
- Hezekiah gets sick
  - Close to death
  - Isaiah tells him he is going to die
  - Hezekiah prays and pleads to Yahweh
  - Through Isaiah, Yahweh gives him 15 more years and promises deliverance from Assyria
  - Hezekiah asks for a sign. Doubts Isaiah/God?
  - Sun goes back 10 steps
- Babylonian envoys
  - Hezekiah shows off all his riches – nothing left unshown
  - Isaiah chastises him and prophesies that Babylon will sack Jerusalem in the future, take all the riches and make his descendants eunuchs.
  - Hezekiah replies with "Meh – it will be peaceful during my lifetime"