

2 Kings 18

King James Version (KJV)

(Chapters 18 -> 25 = the history of Judah after Israel fell captive to the Assyrians. The ten northern tribes were gone)

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

(This verse goes back 6 years from the previous chapter. Israel fell on the 9th year of Hoshea) (Hezekiah = strengthened of Yah)

²Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Abi, the daughter of Zachariah. **2Chronicles-29:1** (Abi is short for Abiyah – which means - worshipper of Yah)

³And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did. (Finally there is a righteous king in Judah. He was the 14th generation after David)

⁴He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan. (Nehushtan = a piece of copper. That is all it was)

(People had reverted to worshipping the brass serpent that Moses made in Numbers-21)

(God told the people to look to the serpent to be healed from the venomous serpents that were plaguing them. HE didn't tell them to worship it. People never change. They will run to idol worship at every opportunity)

John-3:14-15 (Jesus spoke of this serpent that Moses made, as a metaphor to His crucifixion on the cross. It was symbolism only. Nothing more)

⁵He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him. (Hezekiah was a righteous king all his life – like David)

⁶For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses. (He re-opened the temple doors, and re-instituted the worship of Yahoveh; and no other gods) 2Chronicles:29:3

⁷ And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not. (He stopped paying tribute to the Assyrians, as his father Ahaz had been doing)

⁸ He smote the Philistines, even unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. (An expression that means from the rural areas to the biggest cities) Isaiah-14:28-32

⁹ And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria, and besieged it.

¹⁰ And at the end of three years they took it: even in the sixth year of Hezekiah, that is in the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken. (613 – 611 BC -> this is the end of the 10 northern tribes of Israel)

¹¹ And the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes: (Shalmaneser began the siege. His successor, Sargon, finished it and defeated Israel)

¹² Because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed his covenant, and all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and would not hear them, nor do them. (The people of Israel did it to themselves by disobeying God. HE then removed His protection from them and they fell to the enemy)

¹³ Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them. 2Chronicles-32:34 (Hezekiah secured Jerusalem's water supply from invading armies. That kept enemy armies from having water available should they laying siege upon Jerusalem)

(Since the days of David, Israel had gone from being the most powerful nation in that area; to being a single fortified city of Jerusalem. The Israelites did it to themselves; by turning away from God)

NOTE: (There's a historical artifact called Sennacherib's cylinder that documents these battles. A big part of Judah <42 fenced cities> fell to the Assyrians at that time. Sennacherib says – I have Hezekiah

trapped as a bird in a cage in Jerusalem) see Appendix-67 Companion Bible

¹⁴ And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended; return from me: that which thou putttest on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. (This was probably paid annually)

¹⁵ And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house. (He used temple money to pay the bribe. Why didn't he ask God for help? God would have defended him against the Assyrians)

¹⁶ At that time did Hezekiah cut off 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 was a lapse of faith in God by Hezekiah. That's also a lesson to us today. You cannot buy peace. Hezekiah will come back to his senses)

¹⁷ And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsaris and Rabshakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the fuller's field. (Apparently the gold and silver weren't enough. The Assyrians wanted everything from Judah)

¹⁸ And when they had called to the king, there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder. (These were high ranking officials of Jerusalem)

¹⁹ And Rabshakeh said unto them, Speak ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, What confidence is this wherein thou trustest? Psalm-120:2-3 and Psalm 123:3-4 (These Psalms were written by Hezekiah)

²⁰ Thou sayest, (but they are but vain words,) I have counsel and strength for the war. Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me? (but they are but vain words = you don't even believe those words yourself)

(He was speaking for the king of Assyria to Hezekiah. Hezekiah had hired Egyptian mercenaries to help against the Assyrians, instead of asking God for help)

²¹ Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him.

(Sennacherib is laughing at Egypt – and he is right. If you try to support yourself on a reed, it will break and reveal a sharp end that will stab your hand)

(That's why things weren't going well for Hezekiah. He was leaning on Egypt for help; instead of asking God. He should have known better) Isaiah-30:2-3

²² But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem? (In verse 4, Hezekiah did away with the illegal high places of worship; but that was in accordance with God's command. Hezekiah was doing the right thing by God, for taking the high places away)

(Now, Sennacherib was laughing at God. He would live to regret that. God will not be mocked; especially by some heathen king with an ego problem)

²³ Now therefore, I pray thee, give pledges to my lord the king of Assyria, and I will deliver thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them. (pledges = hostages)

(Sennacherib was laughing at Judah. He was saying that Hezekiah doesn't even have enough men to put upon 2000 horses)

²⁴ How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? (You won't even be able to defend against one of the captains of the Assyrian army; let alone all of them. Your military is so weak that you need to hire help from the Egyptians)

²⁵ Am 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. (He presumes to speak for God. That is blasphemy)

²⁶ Then said Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and Shebna, and Joah, unto Rabshakeh, Speak, I pray thee, to thy servants in the Syrian language; for we understand it: and talk not with us in the Jews' language in the ears of the people that are on the wall. (They don't want the men on the wall to hear what is being said. Morale must have been already very low in Jerusalem)

²⁷ But Rabshakeh said unto them, Hath my master sent me to thy master, and to thee, to speak these words? hath he not sent me to the men which sit on the wall, that they may eat their own dung, and drink their own piss with you? (Jerusalem is in siege, so they will eventually starve to death – unless they surrender)

²⁸ Then Rabshakeh stood and cried with a loud voice in the Jews' language, and spake, saying, Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria: (This was psychological propaganda to intimidate the Judeans to surrender without a fight. A siege of Jerusalem would have taken a long time)

²⁹ Thus saith the king, Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you out of his hand:

³⁰ Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria. (He was saying that even God can't save you from the king of Assyria. This is more blasphemy against God)

(This heathen king doesn't realize that Almighty God can do whatever He wishes to do; and no army of men can stand against Him. The Assyrians are about to learn a harsh lesson. They deserve whatever they will get)

³¹ Harken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me, and then eat ye every man of his own vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his cistern: (Speaking for Senachareb, king of Assyria, his general Rabshakeh tempts the people of Jerusalem)

(This guy is a type for the antichrist in the future. He will promise prosperity for all the people who worship him) see Daniel-9 & 11

³² Until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of oil olive and

of honey, that ye may live, and not die: and hearken not unto Hezekiah, when he persuadeth you, saying, The LORD will deliver us. (wine = new wine – that goes right to your head and makes you drunk; Eat drink and be merry. Forget about God. HE can't save you)

³³ Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered at all his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? (He is saying that God is no better than the false gods of the other nations that Assyria had already taken. Their gods couldn't save them; and Yahoveh cannot save you)

³⁴ Where are the gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? have they delivered Samaria out of mine hand? (These are all heathen lands that were defeated by the Assyrians)

³⁵ Who are they among all the gods of the countries, that have delivered their country out of mine hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of mine hand?

³⁶ But the people held their peace, and answered him not a word: for the king's commandment was, saying, Answer him not. (This was a smart move on Hezekiah's part. Don't show your hand. Let the enemy show his)

³⁷ Then came Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder, to Hezekiah with their clothes rent, and told him the words of Rabshakeh. (Renting their clothes was a sign of shame and mourning)