



In the third year of King Hoshea son of Elah of Israel, Hezekiah son of King Ahaz of Judah began to reign. 2. He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi Daughter of Zechariah. 3. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord just as his ancestor David had done. 4. He removed the high places, broke down the pillars, and cut down the sacred pole. He broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it; it was called Nehushtan. 5. He trusted in the Lord the God of Israel; so that there was no one like him among all the kings of Judah after him, or among those who were before him. 6. For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following him but kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses. 7. The Lord was with

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him; wherever he went, he prospered.  
He rebelled against the King of Assyria and would not serve him.

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

In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of King Hoshea son of Elah of Israel, King Shalmaneser of Assyria came up against Samaria, besieged it, 10. and at the end of three years, took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of King Hoshea of

Israel, Samaria was taken. "The king of Assyria carried the Israelites away to Assyria, settled them in Halah, on the Habor, the river of Gopan, and in the cities of the Medes,

12 because they did not obey the voice of the Lord their God but transgressed his covenant - all that Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded;

they neither listened nor obeyed. 13. In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, King Sennacherib of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah

and captured them. 14. King Hezekiah of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; withdraw from me; whatever you impose on me I will bear." The king of Assyria demanded of King Hezekiah of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

15. 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 doorposts that King Hezekiah of Judah had overlaid and gave it to the King of Assyria. 17. The king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rabsaris, and the Rabshakeh with a great army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. They went up and came to Jerusalem. When they arrived, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is on the highway to the Fuller's Field. 18. When they called for the

2 KINGS 18

19

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King, there came out to them Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebnah the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the recorder.

19 The Rabshakeh said to them,  
"Say to Hezekiah: Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you base this confidence of yours?"

20 Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? On whom do you now rely, that you have rebelled against me?

21 So, you are relying now on Egypt, that broken reed of a stagg, which will pierce the hand of anyone who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh, king of Egypt to all who rely on him.

22 But if you say to me, "We rely on the Lord our God," is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, "You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem"?

23 Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them.

24 How then can you repulse a single captain among the least of my master's servants, when you rely on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?

25 moreover, is it without the Lord that I have come up against this place to destroy it? The Lord said to me, "Go up against this land, and destroy it."

26 Then the Lord said Eliakim son of Hilkiah, Shebnah, and Joah said to Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in the Aramaic language, for we understand it; do not speak to us in the language of Judah within the hearing of the people who are on the wall."

27 But the Rabshakeh said to them, "Has my master sent me to speak these words to your master and to you, and to the people sitting on the wall, who are doomed with you to eat their own dung and to drink their own urine?"

28 Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah, "Hear the word of the great King, the King of Assyria!"

29 Thus says the King: "Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you out of my hand."

30 Do not let Hezekiah make you rely on the Lord by saying, The Lord will surely deliver us, and this city will 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 your peace with me and come out to me; then every one of you will eat from your own vine and your own fig tree, and drink water from your own cistern,

32 until I come and take you away to a land like your Handwritten Bible

own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive oil and honey, that you may live and not die. Do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you by saying, 'The Lord will deliver us.'

33. Has any of the gods of the nations ever delivered its land out of the hand of the king of Assyria. 34. Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivrah? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? 35. Who among all the gods of the countries have delivered their countries out of my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?"

36. But the people were silent and answered him not a word, for the king's command was, "Do not answer him." 37. Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn and told him the words of Rabshakeh.

When King Hezekiah heard it, he took his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord. And he sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, 'This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. It may be that the Lord your God heard all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the King of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the LORD your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.'"

"When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master, 'Thus says the Lord: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the King of Assyria have reviled me.'

<sup>7</sup> "I myself will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land."

<sup>8</sup> The Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that the king had left Lashish.

<sup>9</sup> When the king <sup>concerning</sup> King Tirhakah of Ethiopia, "See he has set out to fight against you" he sent messengers again to Hezekiah, saying,

<sup>10</sup> "Thus shall you speak to King Hezekiah of Judah: do not let your God on whom you rely deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the King of Assyria."

11. See, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, destroying them utterly. Shall you be delivered?
12. Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations that my predecessors destroyed—Gogar, Maran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? Where is the King of Hamath, the King of Arpad, the King of the City of Sepharvaim, the King of Hena, or the King of Ivah?
13. Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; then Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD and
14. spread it before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, you are God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth.
15. T繁ine your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God."
16. Handwritten Bible

2 Kings 19

19 ADERNEY EDGE  
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- 17 Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have  
18 laid waste the nations and their lands, and have  
hurled their gods into the fire,  
though they were no gods but the  
work of human hands - wood  
and stone - and so they were  
destroyed. So now, O LORD our God,  
Save us, I pray, from his hand,  
so that all the kingdoms of the earth  
may know that you, O LORD, are  
God alone."
- 20 Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying,  
"Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I have heard  
your prayer to me about King Sennacherib of  
Assyria.
- 21 This is the word that the Lord has spoken concerning  
him:

She despises you, she scorns you -

virgin daughter Zion;

She tosses her head - behind your back,

-22 daughter Jerusalem.

Whom have you mocked and reviled?

Against whom have you raised your voice and noughtily lifted your eyes?

Against the Holy One of Israel.

23 By your messengers.

You have mocked the Lord.

and you have said,

'With my many chariots

I have gone up the heights of the mountains,

To the far recesses of Lebanon;

I felled its tallest cedars,

its choicest cypresses;

I entered its farthest retreat,

its densest forest

24 I dug wells

and drank foreign waters

I dried up with the sole of my foot

all the streams of Egypt.'

25 Have you not heard that I determined it long ago?

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2 Kings 19

19

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11-27 THE  
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I planned from days of old what now  
I bring to pass that you should make  
fortified cities crash into heaps of ruins

26 While their inhabitants, shorn of strength, are dismaded  
and confounded; they have become plants of the field  
and like tender grass, like grass on the housetops,  
blighted before it is grown.

27 "But I know your rising and your sitting,  
your going out and coming in, and your  
raging against me.

28. Because you have raged against me, and your  
arrogance has come to my ears.  
I will put my hook in your nose and my bit  
in your mouth.

I will turn you back on the way by which you came.

29. And this shall be a sign for you:  
This year you shall eat what grows of itself  
and in the second year what springs that  
then in the third year sow, reap, plant vineyards  
and eat their fruit.

30 The surviving remnant of the house of Judah

Shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward;

31 For from Jerusalem a remnant shall go out, and

from Mount Zion a band of survivors. 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  
shoot an arrow there come before it with a shield

or cast up a siege ramp against it.<sup>33</sup> By the way

that he came by the same he shall return; he shall  
not come into this city says the LORD. <sup>34</sup> For

I will defend this city to save it for my own  
sake and for the sake of my servant David

35 That very night the angel of the LORD set  
out and struck down one hundred eighty-  
five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians;  
when morning dawned, they were all  
dead bodies.

36 Then King Sennacherib of Assyria left, went home,  
and lived at Nineveh.

37 As he was worshiping in the house of

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2 Kings 19

19

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his god Nisrock, his sons Adrammelech  
and Sharezer killed him with the  
sword and they escaped into the land  
of Ararat. His son Esarhaddon  
succeeded him.