

calvary chapel

portsmouth



2nd Book of Kings

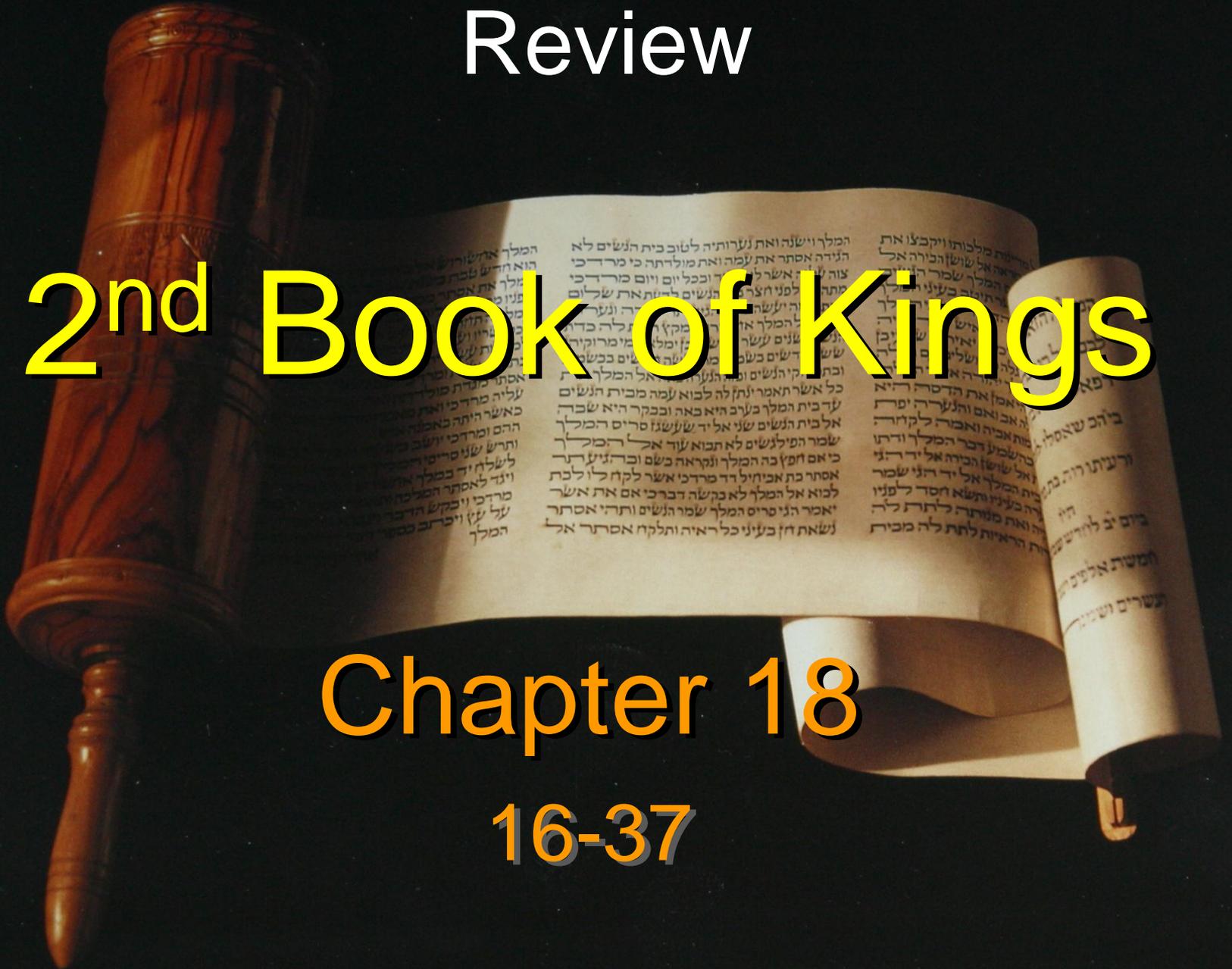
Simply teaching the Word simply

Review

2nd Book of Kings

Chapter 18

16-37



The Land of Israel in 722 B.C.



Israel

To Assyria...

Samaritans

The Israelites were unable to capture the fortified towns of the plains during the early period of settlement.

Although all of Bashan was assigned to the half tribe of Manasseh, it is doubtful that the settlement reached beyond the Jezreel Valley.

Israelites were constantly attacked by Philistine invaders who occupied the coastal plain about this time.

During the period of Judges, invading Ammonites, Moabites and Midianites were repulsed by the Israelites.

Samaria

Jerusalem



Hezekiah

Judah

The Assyrian Empire



The Kings of Assyria

Assyria built by Nimrod (Gen 10:11)

The *'Empire'* was not founded until c.1228 B.C. by Tiglath Pileser I

Pul

(1st Oppression of Israel)

2 Kings 15:19

Tiglath Pileser III

(Ahaz of Judah buys his support)

2 Kings 16:7

Shalmaneser

(Lays siege to Samaria for 3 yrs)

2 Kings 17:3-5

Sargon II

(Carried Israel away captive (27,280 people))

2 Kings 17:3-5

Sennacherib

(Leads an assault on Judah)

2 Kings 18:13 / 2 Kings 19:32-36

Esar-haddon

(Assyria subdued by Egypt then Babylon)

2 Kings 19:37

Ashurbanipal (Asenappar)

Ezra 4:10

The Days of Hezekiah

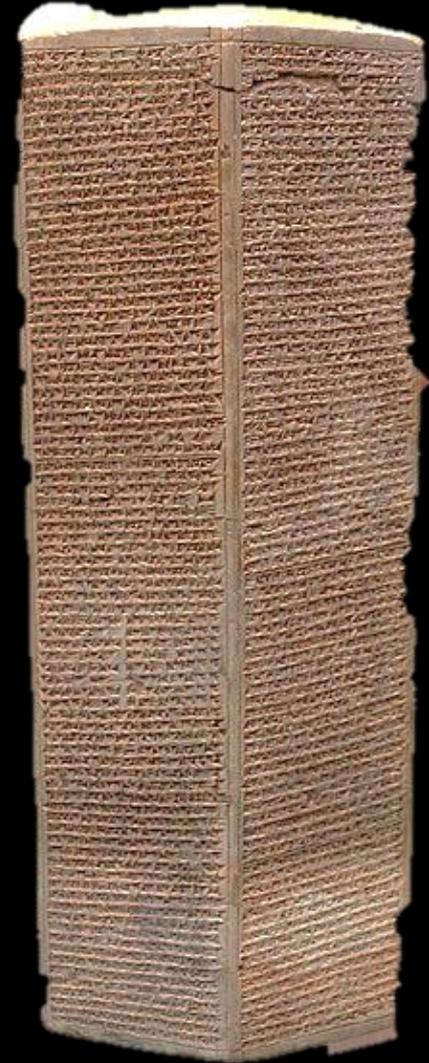
¹³ Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them.

2 Kings 18:13

- Sennacherib's inscriptions refer to his conquest of **46** strong cities of Hezekiah + many villages
- His military chiefs (Tartan and Rabsaris and Rabshakeh) then brought threats and warnings to Hezekiah in Jerusalem
 - and spoke to the people over the wall

The Sennacherib Prism

The text of the prism boasts how Sennacherib destroyed forty-six of Judah's cities, and trapped Hezekiah in Jerusalem "like a caged bird." The text goes on to describe how the "terrifying splendour" of the Assyrian army caused the Arabs and mercenaries reinforcing the city to desert. It adds that the Assyrian king returned to Assyria where he later received a large tribute from Judah.

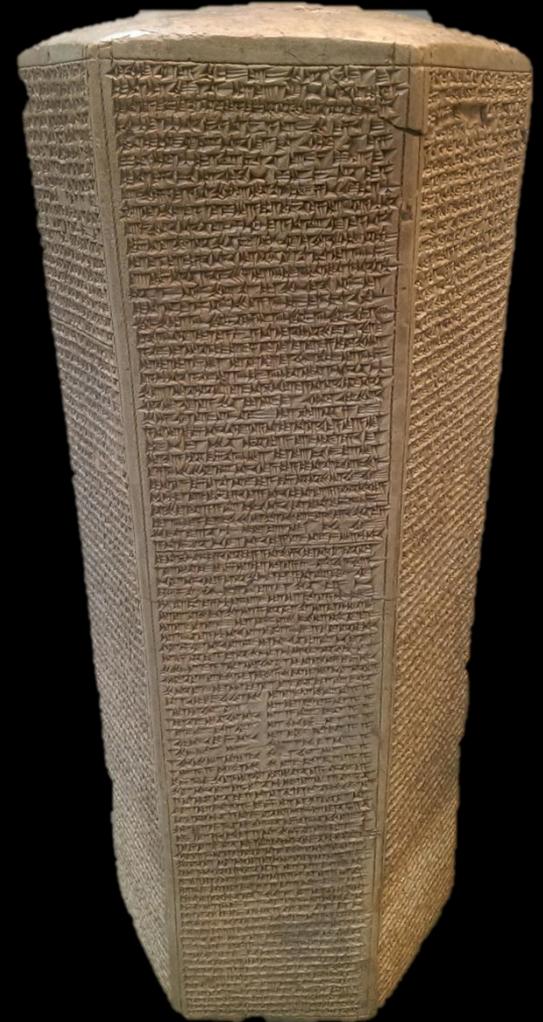


Picture by David Castor

The Taylor Prism

This six-sided baked clay document (or prism) was discovered at the Assyrian capital Nineveh. It was acquired by British Colonel R. Taylor in 1830.

The record of his account of his third campaign (701 BC) is particularly interesting to scholars. It involved the destruction of forty-six cities of the state of Judah and the deportation of 200,150 people. Hezekiah, king of Judah, is said to have sent tribute to Sennacherib.



The Days of Hezekiah

- Rab-shakeh warned that God would not be able to save them
- The 'gods of the nations' had not been able to deliver them
- Rab-shakeh's message was that the people of Judah would be better to go to the Assyria where there will be abundance and they could prosper



The Days of Hezekiah

- Twofold challenge:
- Firstly, you can't win so don't fight
- Secondly, the promise of an easy and abundant life if you simply conform!
- These two challenges face us today!
- Will you give in?
- Will you conform?
- Has the pressure just got too much?

The Days of Hezekiah

³ And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did.

2 Kings 18:3

- Hezekiah was a good king!
- Yet all this trouble comes upon them
- There was the prospect of defeat by Assyria
- ...and the danger of his own people defecting
- **Why do bad things happen to good people?**

God's Training Program

- 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
- 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
- 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:2-4

The Days of Hezekiah

¹ After these things, and the establishment thereof, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself.

² And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem,

2 Chronicles 32:1-4

The Days of Hezekiah

3 He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city: and they did help him.

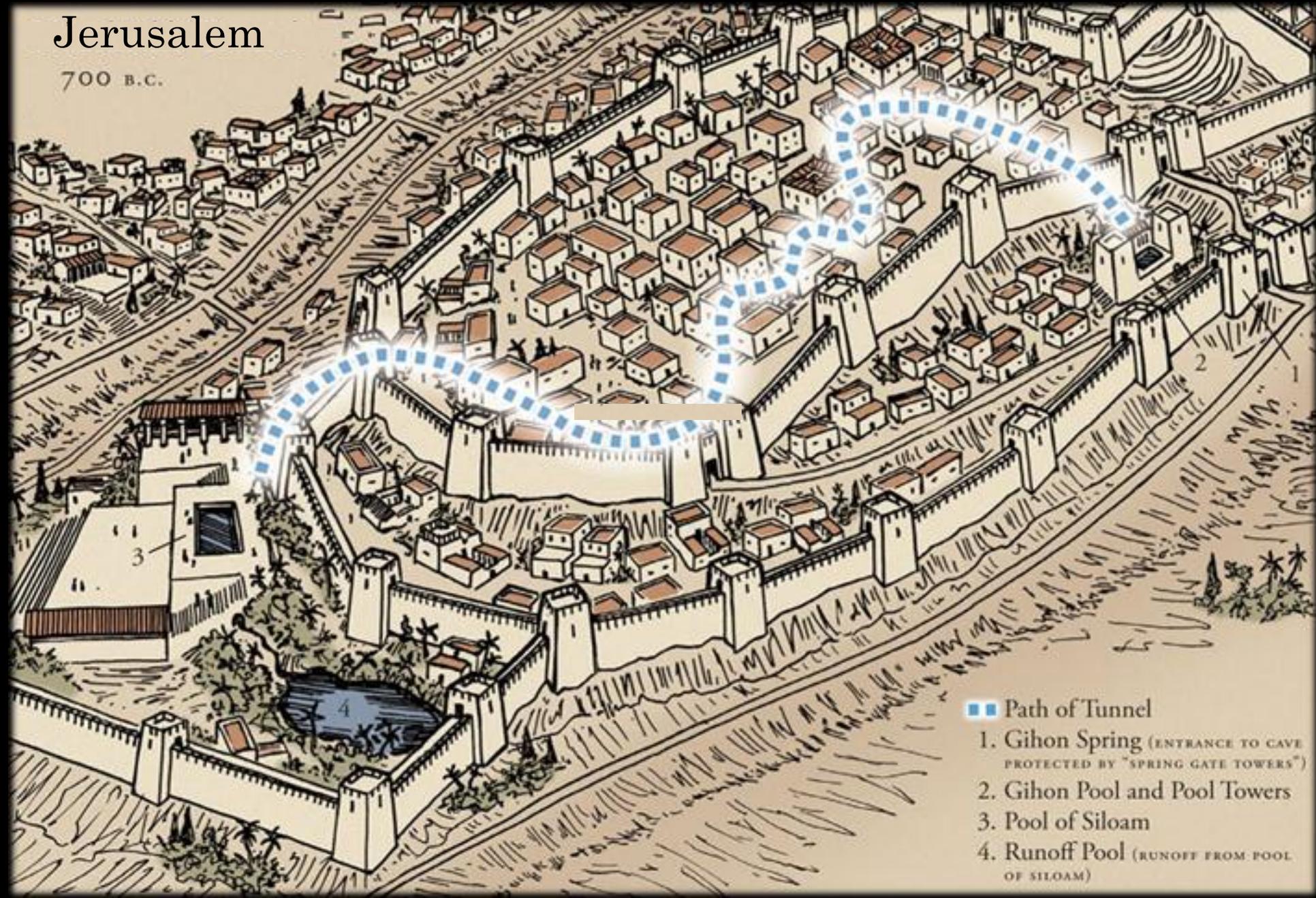
4 So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land, saying, Why should the kings of Assyria come, and find much water?

2 Chronicles 32:1-4

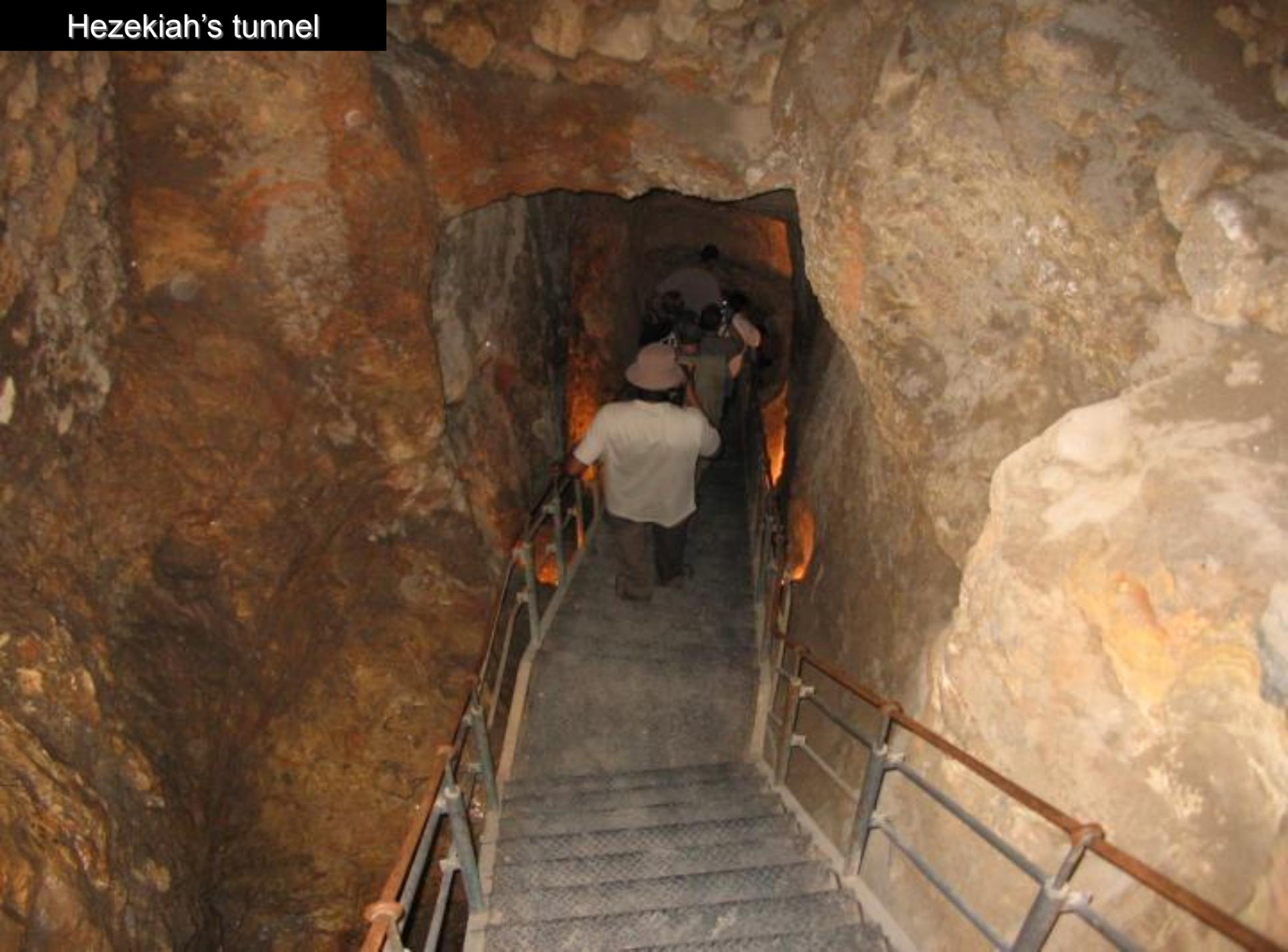
Hezekiah's Tunnel

Jerusalem

700 B.C.



Hezekiah's tunnel



Hezekiah's tunnel



Hezekiah's tunnel



Waistline

Waterline!!

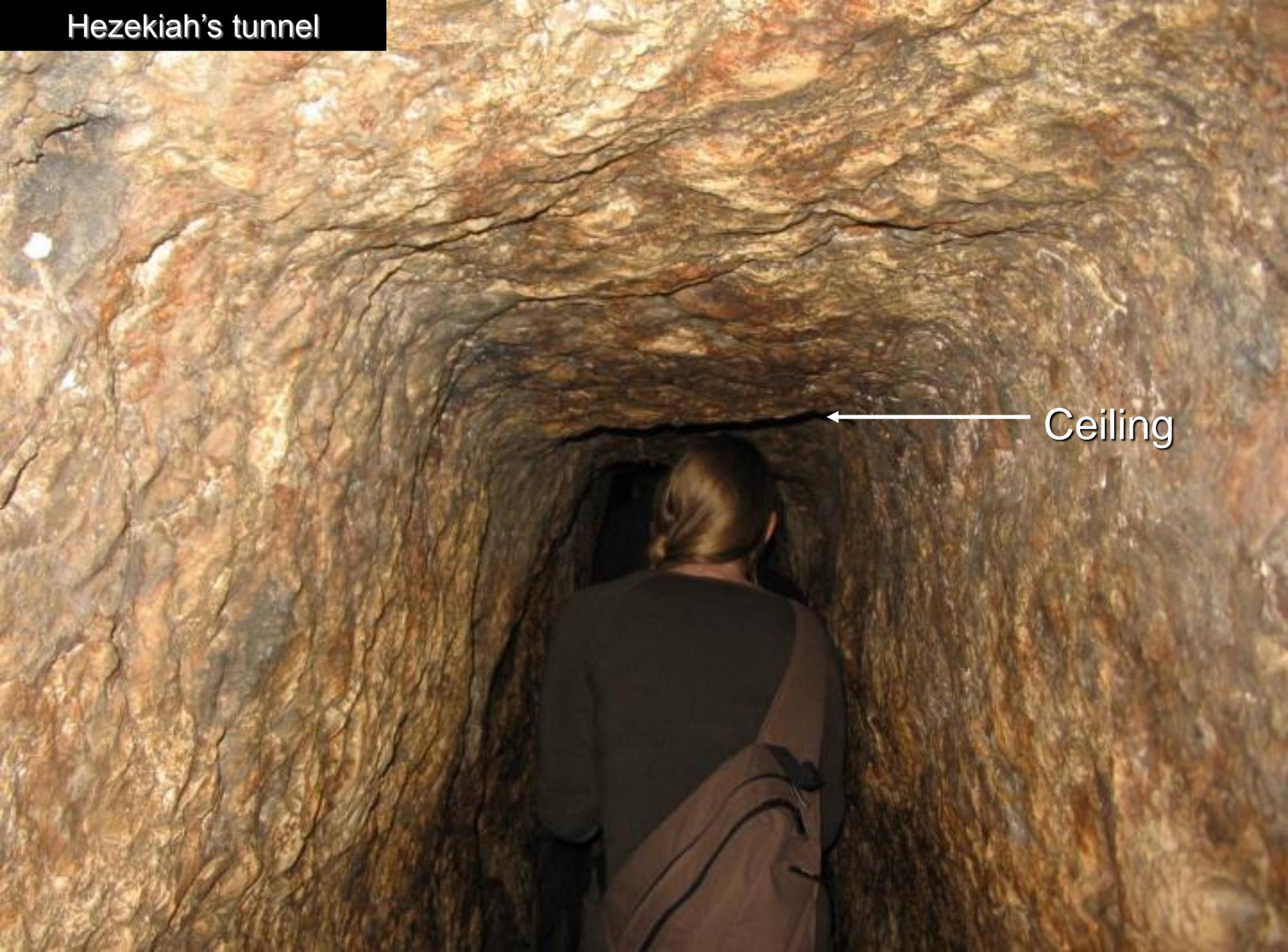
Hezekiah's tunnel



Ceiling

Head height

Hezekiah's tunnel



Ceiling

Hezekiah's tunnel



← Ceiling

Hezekiah's tunnel

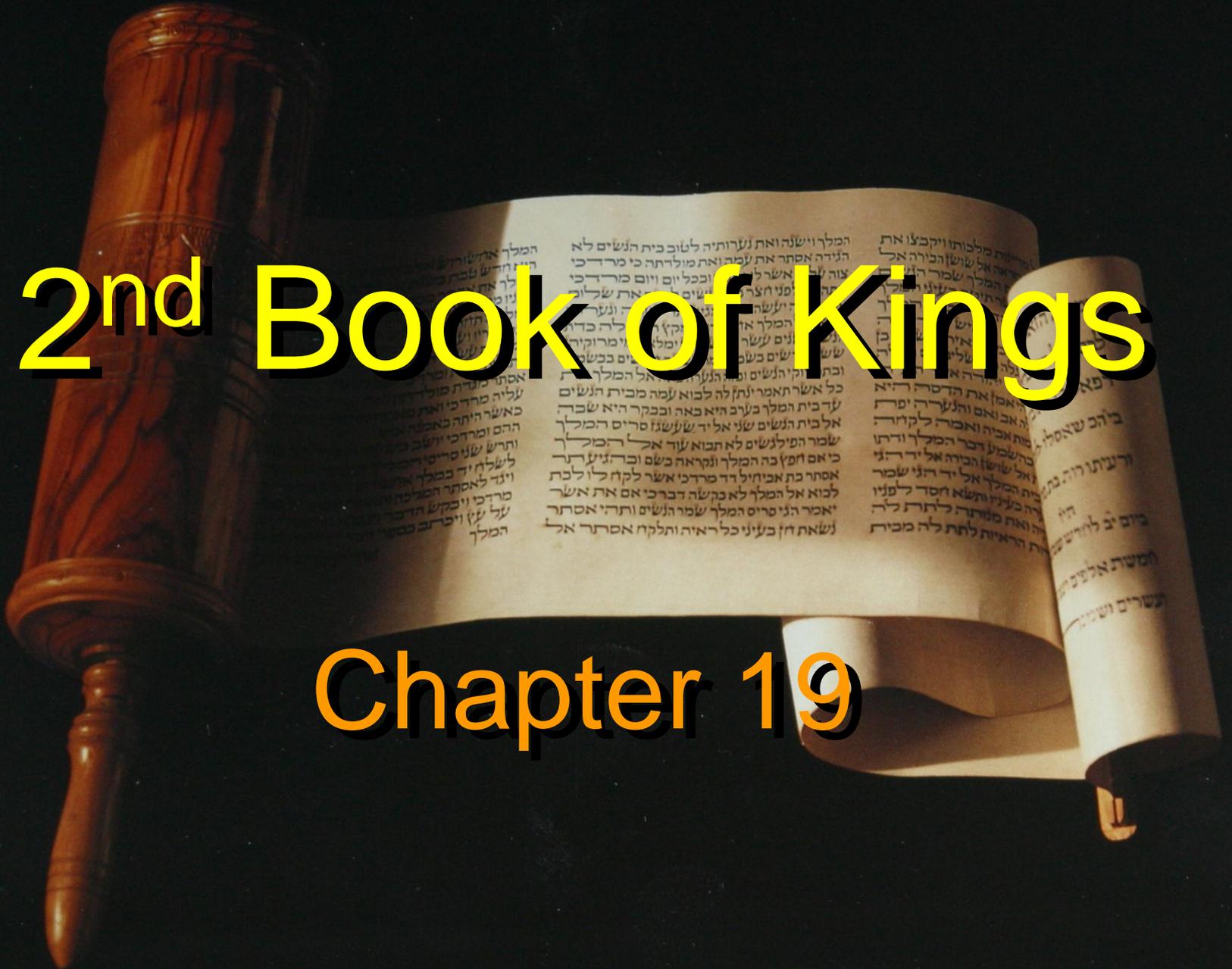


Pool of Siloam



2nd Book of Kings

Chapter 19



^I And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD.

2 Kings 19:1

- Where do you go when troubled?
- To what (or whom) do you resort?
 - Psalm 32:7 *“Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.”*
 - Psalm 119:114 *“Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word”.*

² And he sent Eliakim, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz.

2 Kings 19:2

- Hezekiah sent:
- Eliakim, Shebna & the Elders!
 - All sent to inquire of God's Word through Isaiah
- What value do you place on God's Word?
 - Do you give your most valuable resources to inquire after God's Word when in need?

³ And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and blasphemy: for the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth.

2 Kings 19:3

- *“We’ve come this far, surely it can’t all end here and now when we need to be strong?”*
 - **Trouble:** Affliction from the hand of the enemy
 - **Rebuke:** Chastisement/Correction from God
 - **Blasphemy:** The grounds on which appeal is made
- How do you respond when God is blasphemed?

4 It may be the LORD thy God will hear all the words of Rab-shakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God; and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: **wherefore lift up thy prayer** for the remnant that are left.

2 Kings 19:4

- Hezekiah's first request is that Isaiah prays!

*5 So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah.
6 And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say to your master, Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.
7 Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.*

2 Kings 19:5-7

- The test of faith!
- God has given His Word, do you trust it?

The Test of Faith

- *“If we learn to worship God in the trying circumstances, He will alter them in two seconds when He chooses”*
 - Oswald Chambers

⁸ So Rab-shakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah: for he had heard that he was departed from Lachish.

⁹ And when he heard say of Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, Behold, he is come out to fight against thee: he sent messengers again unto Hezekiah, saying,

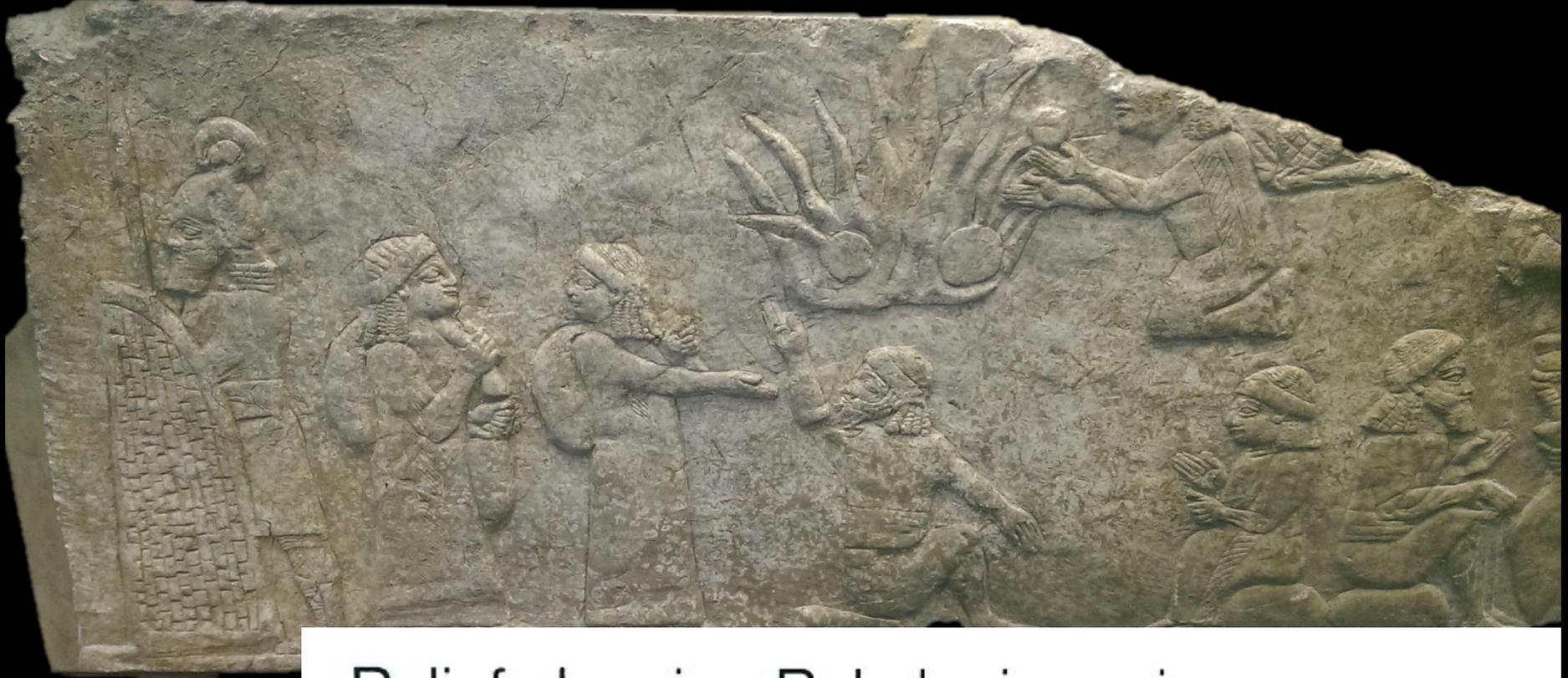
¹⁰ Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.

2 Kings 19:8-10

11 Behold, thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, by destroying them utterly: and shalt thou be delivered?

12 Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed; as Gozan, and Haran, and Rezeph, and the children of Eden which were in Thelasar?

13 Where is the king of Hamath, and the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, of Hena, and Ivah?



Relief showing Babylonian prisoners

This Assyrian stone panel shows Babylonian prisoners in a camp. Some hold bundles; others tend the fire, talk or drink from an animal skin container. To the left an Assyrian soldier stands guard.

Reign of Ashurbanipal, 668–630 BC, North Palace, Nineveh, northern Iraq, ME 124788

¹⁴ And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.

2 Kings 19:14

- The letter was addressed to Hezekiah, but he realised the right recipient was God!
- Hezekiah was simply a representative of the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob; an ambassador.
- This was not his burden to carry!

¹⁵ And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, **which dwellest between the cherubims,** thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

2 Kings 19:15

- We see this at the entrance of Eden – **Gen 3:24**
- ...depicted on the Mercy Seat – **Ex 25:18**
- ...before the throne in Heaven – **Ezek 10**
- ...and the ultimate revelation at the Garden Tomb – **John 20:12**

16 LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent him to reproach the living God.

17 Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands,

18 And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them.

2 Kings 19:16-18

- *“For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens” – Psalm 96:5*

¹⁹ Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.

2 Kings 19:19

- Unless God comes through there is no tomorrow!
- Ref: Moses / Gideon / David / Daniel
- God will remove every other option until your only choice is Him!

Question:

What is the first thing God declares is 'Not good'?

18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:18

- Man was made for relationship

What does God desire?

⁸ He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Micah 6:8

20 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, That which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.

21 This is the word that the LORD hath spoken concerning him; The virgin the daughter of Zion hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.

2 Kings 19:20-21

22 Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

23 By the messengers thou hast reproached the Lord, and hast said, With the multitude of my chariots I am come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon, and will cut down the tall cedar trees thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the lodgings of his borders, and into the forest of his Carmel.

24 I have digged and drunk strange waters, and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of besieged places.

25 Hast thou not heard long ago how I have done it, and of ancient times that I have formed it? now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldst be to lay waste fenced cities into ruinous heaps.

2 Kings 19:24-25

26 Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded; they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up.

27 But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me.

28 Because thy rage against me and thy tumult is come up into mine ears, therefore I will put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.

29 And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such things as grow of themselves, and in the second year that which springeth of the same; and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruits thereof.

30 And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take root downward, and bear fruit upward.

31 For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.

32 Therefore thus saith 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 cast a bank against it.

33 By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD.

34 For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

2 Kings 19:32-34

35 And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

2 Kings 19:35

- *“If we learn to worship God in the trying circumstances, He will alter them in two seconds when He chooses”*

– Oswald Chambers



Angelic Power

- 1 And I saw **an angel** come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*
- 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*

Revelation 20:1-2

- Note: not even an Archangel – just a regular angel carrying out God’s command!

36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.

37 And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esar-haddon his son reigned in his stead.

2 Kings 19:36-37

The Capture of Lachish

In 701 BC Hezekiah, king of Judah, was implicated in a rebellion against Assyrian rule in Palestine. Sennacherib, king of Assyria, attacked and defeated the rebels and their Egyptian allies. He did not capture Hezekiah's capital, Jerusalem, **he may not even have planned to** but instead he devastated the very strong and important city of Lachish.

The capture of Lachish was used as a decorative theme for panelling in one of the most prominent rooms in Sennacherib's palace at Nineveh, and the surviving panels are displayed opposite. Sennacherib's annals do not mention Lachish, but the name is given in one of the captions written on the panels. The Bible (2 Kings 18) records that Sennacherib was based at Lachish while negotiating Hezekiah's submission.

Siege of Lachish



Siege of Lachish



Most of the sculptures in this room belong to a single series showing the capture of Lachish by the Assyrian king Sennacherib in 701 BC. Lachish was one of the chief cities of the kingdom of Judah, and there are references to Sennacherib's invasion in the Bible.

The Capture of Lachish

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Other Theories?

- In *What If?*, a collection of essays on counterfactual history, historian William Hardy McNeill speculates that the accounts of mass death among the Assyrian army in the Tanakh might be explained by an outbreak of cholera (or other water-borne diseases) due to the springs beyond the city walls having been blocked, thus depriving the besieging force of a safe water supply.
- The extraordinary defeat of Sennacherib which McNeill suggests, by disease which was as yet not understood, would have proven YHWH superior to the gods of the most powerful nation then known to the Jews, Assyria. McNeill concludes that if Sennacherib had taken the city, the Jews may have adopted polytheism; consequently, the Abrahamic faiths {Judaism, Christianity, Islam} would not exist.

What Became of the Assyrian Army?

- Historians may have their theories, but it is inconceivable that Sennacherib, after conquering almost all the Middle East, would simply abandon his attempt to take Jerusalem – the capitol of Israel (Judah).
- To have ‘not bothered’ to take Jerusalem (when he had already defeated 46 principle cities in Israel – and had this fact inscribed on at least two clay cylinders that have survived to this day) would have been seen as and the inability to defeat Israel’s God.
- Sennacherib’s great boast was the none of the gods of the other nations had saved them, so to leave Jerusalem (which only 300 years earlier had been the most powerful city in Middle East under Solomon) would be construed by surrounding nations as a sign of weakness.
 - See Ezra 4:15 to note the attitude held by others regarding Jerusalem

What Became of the Assyrian Army?

- So the inescapable fact remains:
- Assyria, following two sieges of Jerusalem, failed to take the city, and there is not even any record of a battle.
- Israel (Judah) were hopelessly outnumbered, and could not call for help from other Jewish cities, as most had already been defeated!
- An outbreak of disease among the Assyrian troops would have only intensified the need to take Jerusalem and avail themselves of her fresh water supplies and food.
- Yet Assyria did not take Jerusalem, and from this point on never again assert the same military strength, and never again come against Israel. Within 100 years, Assyria would fall to the Babylonians, never to recover.
- The Bible offers the only explanation to these facts!



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