

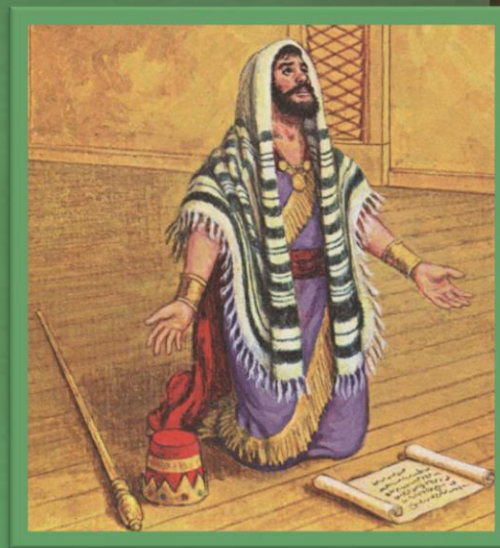
# DEFEAT OF THE ASSYRIANS



King Ahaz joined forces with the Assyrians, and his son Hezekiah had to face the consequences. Shalmaneser V and Sargon II had destroyed Israel and had deported the Israelites. Then the new Assyrian King [Sennacherib] was heading for Judah.

Hezekiah prepared for battle. He did not follow his father's ways but trusted God instead. God was his ally to fight the Assyrian king.

In addition, Hezekiah was also fighting his personal battle against death.



#### ➤ Human intervention:

- ➔ Preparing for conflict. Isaiah 36:1
- ➔ The Assyrians advance. Isaiah 36:2-20

#### ➤ Divine intervention:

- ➔ Hezekiah seeks help. Isaiah 36:21-37:20
- ➔ The Assyrians are defeated. Isaiah 37:21-38

#### ➤ Victory and defeat of Hezekiah. Isaiah 38; 39

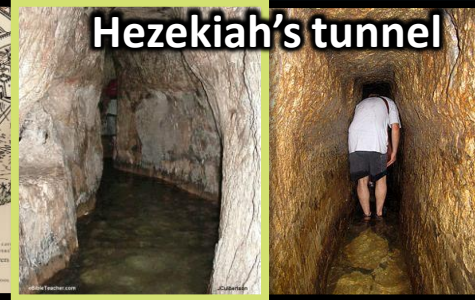
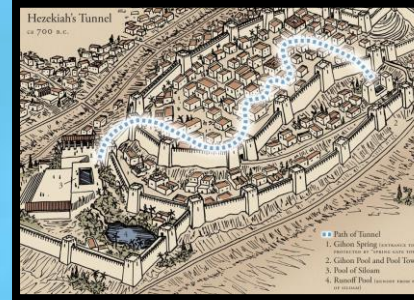
# PREPARING FOR CONFLICT

“Now it came to pass in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah that Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.” (Isaiah 36:1)

Hezekiah thought he had a chance to free his people from the Assyrian yoke when Sennacherib became king.

However, Sennacherib attacked Palestine in 701 BC. He destroyed the kingdom of Judah and conquered Lachish, a city near Jerusalem.

Hezekiah prepared the city for war. He strengthened the walls, blocked off the springs, and dug a tunnel to bring water to Jerusalem (2Chr. 32:1-6; 2K. 20:20).

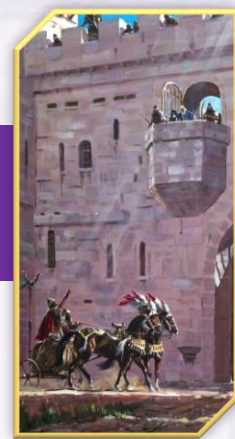
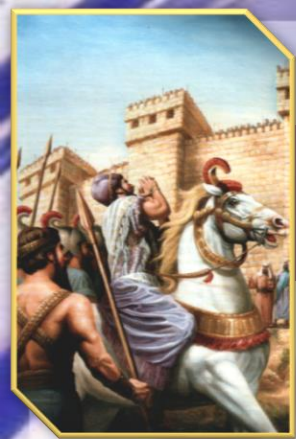


He had done everything humanly possible, then he entrusted the battle to the only One who could help him: “with us is the Lord our God.” (2Chr. 32:7-8). He was a great example for us.

# THE ASSYRIANS ADVANCE

“Have I now come up without the Lord against this land to destroy it? The Lord said to me, ‘Go up against this land, and destroy it.’”  
(Isaiah 36:10)

While besieging Lachish, Sennacherib sent his Rabshakeh to Jerusalem. His goal was to conquer the city by intimidating the people and talking them into rebelling against Hezekiah and handing the city over.



Isaiah 36:6

You cannot trust Egypt

TRUE

FALSE

Isaiah 36:7

You cannot trust God, because Hezekiah offended Him by tearing down His places of worship

TRUE

FALSE

Isaiah 36:8

You don't even have horsemen ready for war

TRUE

FALSE

Isaiah 36:10

God is on Assyria's side

TRUE

FALSE

Isaiah 36:12

You will starve because of the long siege

TRUE

FALSE

The Rabshakeh used a mix of truths, half-truths, and lies. But he couldn't convince the people. They trusted God's power and remained faithful to their king.



# HEZEKIAH SEEKS HELP

*“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.” (Isaiah 37:14)*



**Hezekiah's first reaction was to seek God's help through prophet Isaiah (v. 2-5).**

**God's answered immediately. He had heard the Assyrian blasphemy, and a rumor would make them go away (v. 6-7).**

**After conquering Lachish, Sennacherib heard a false rumor about an Ethiopian attack. He sent threatening letters to Hezekiah just before leaving Judah (v. 8-13).**

**Hezekiah brought these letters before God. He asked Him for liberation and acknowledged Him as Holy, King, and Creator (v. 16).**

**The king asked for God's help. He wasn't asking this for his own benefit, but for God's glory to be known in all nations (v. 20).**



# THE ASSYRIANS ARE DEFEATED

**"For I will defend this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake." (Isaiah 37:35)**

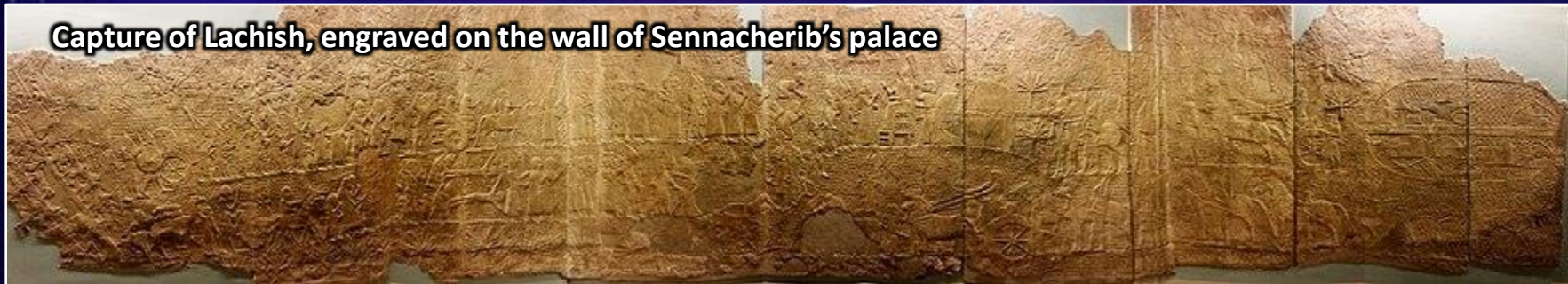


**Satan wanted to annihilate Judah to prevent the birth of the Messiah and the redemption of the world. If Sennacherib had conquered Jerusalem, he would have got his way.**

**Sennacherib engraved his victory over Lachish on the wall of his palace. He bragged about having locked Hezekiah up "like a bird in a cage." However, he could not say he had defeated him or conquered Jerusalem.**

**He had left a contingent to siege Jerusalem. 185,000 of those soldiers were killed by an angel. Of course, Sennacherib didn't mention this in his mural. The king met his own death when he returned to his city. God had won.**

**Capture of Lachish, engraved on the wall of Sennacherib's palace**



# VICTORY AND DEFEAT OF HEZEKIAH

**“At that time Marduk-Baladan son of Baladan king of Babylon sent Hezekiah letters and a gift, because he had heard of his illness and recovery.” (Isaiah 39:1 NIV)**

**In the middle of this crisis, Hezekiah fell ill, and Isaiah announced his death. The king turned to God with great lament. God heard him and gave him another 15 years of life.**



**In his anguish, Hezekiah asked for a sign to confirm this great miracle. That sign was a miracle itself: the Sun went back because of his request (Isaiah 38:8).**

**Hezekiah praised God for his recovery. Meanwhile, the Babylonian astronomers had watched this phenomenon and had heard about Hezekiah’s recovery, so the king of Babylon sent his messengers to meet him (Is. 39).**

**Hezekiah had an unprecedented opportunity to praise God’s name before the Babylonian scholars, but he wasted it.**



**“In the darkest days, when appearances seem most forbidding, have faith in God. He is working out His will, doing all things well in behalf of His people. The strength of those who love and serve Him will be renewed day by day.”**

E.G.W. (The Ministry of Healing, cp. 40, p. 482)