

Hezekiah: Against All Odds! (2 Kings 18–20) Grace Chapel July 4, 2010 Dr. John Niemelä

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND (2 Kgs 18–20; 2 Chron 29–32; Isaiah 36–39 are the main passages on Hezekiah)

United Monarchy					
Saul	1051–1011	E			
David	1011–971	G			
Solomon	971–931	G			<i>The United Monarchy split into two kingdoms in 931 BC</i>
Judah			Israel		
Rehoboam	931–913	E	Jeroboam I	931–910	E
Abijah	913–911	E	Nadab	910–909	E
Asa	911–870	G	Baasha	909–886	E
			Elah	886–885	E
			Zimri	885	E
			Omri	885–874	E
Jehoshaphat	873–848	G	Ahab	874–853	E
			Ahaziah	853–852	E
Jehoram	848–841	E	Joram	852–841	E
Ahaziah	841	E	Jehu	841–814	E
Athaliah	841–835	E			
Joash	835–796	G	Jehoahaz	814–798	E
Amaziah	796–767	G	Jehoash	798–782	E
Uzziah (Azariah)	792–740	G	Jeroboam II	793–753	E
			Zechariah	753	E
			Shallum	752	E
Jotham	750–731	G	Menehem	752–742	E
Ahaz	735–715	E	Pekahiah	742–740	E
Hezekiah	729–686	G	Pekah	752–732	E
Manasseh	686–642	E	Hoshea	732–722	E
Amon	642–640	E			
Josiah	640–609	G			
Jehoahaz	609	E			
Jehoiakim	608–598	E			
Jehoiachin	598–597	E			
Zedekiah	597–586	E			

Israel fell in 722 BC

E (= Evil King)
 G (= Good King)

Note: Often kings had co-regencies.

Judah fell in 586 BC

- 1 (2 Kings 18:1) Hezekiah (age 11) became co-regent to Ahaz in 729 BC (Hoshea's 3rd yr)**
- 2 (2 Kings 18:9–10) After a 3-year siege 722 BC, Assyria took the city of Samaria**
- 3 (2 Kings 18:2) He (age 25) became sole king in 715 BC (Ahaz died) for 29 yrs (til 686 BC)**
- 4 (2 Chron 29:3ff) In 715 BC he reopened the Temple and began repairing it**
- 5 (2 Chron 30:1ff) In 714 BC he called all Israel & Judah to Passover (a long-ignored feast)**
- 6 (2 Kings 18:17 and 20:20) Hezekiah built his tunnel (prior to Assyrian invasion 701 BC)**
- 7 (2 Kings 18:13ff) In 701 BC (his 14th yr) Assyria invaded Judah; Hezekiah offered tribute**
- 8 (2 Kgs 20:12ff) In 701 BC after his prayer & recovery, he showed Babylon all his wealth**
- 9 (2 Kings 20:21) Hezekiah died (686 BC) and his evil son, Manasseh, reigned in his place**

(18:3–8) Hezekiah quelched idolatry, ceased paying Assyrian tribute & subdued Philistines
 Hezekiah rebelled against Assyria by ceasing to pay tribute

Hezekiah built his tunnel (cf. 18:17 and 20:20).

(18:9–12) After a 3-year siege (722 BC), Assyria captured Samaria and deported its people, which was divine discipline for national disobedience

(18:13–16) In 701 BC (Hezekiah's 14th yr) Assyria invaded Judah & Hezekiah offered tribute (while Lachish was under siege)

(18:17–25) Key Assyrian commanders from Lachish came to Jerusalem & (speaking in Hebrew) rejected Hezekiah's offer for tribute; they demanded total surrender, saying that neither Egypt nor Judah's God could deliver them

Rabshakeh is a title, not a name. It is comparable to *Governor* (e.g. *Rabshakeh John Doe*)

(18:26–37) The Rabshakeh refused to stop using Hebrew, warned the people to reject Hezekiah urging them to trust the LORD because no god delivered Gentiles or Samaria from Assyria, they would be deported to a nice place rather than starving in a siege

(19:1–7) Hezekiah sent word to Isaiah that he lacked ability to repel the Assyrians, asked Isaiah to pray for deliverance; Isaiah said God would send Sennacherib home on a rumor (in defeat), where he would be assassinated

(19:8–13) When Egypt (led by an Ethiopian king) came against the Assyrians, Sennacherib warned Hezekiah against allying with Egypt, mentioning other defeated nations
 Nubians controlled most of Egypt (except for the Delta) after 737 BC

(19:14–19) Hezekiah prayed that God would vindicate Himself before all the kingdoms of the earth by delivering Judah, when the idols of other nations did not defend them

(19:20–29) Isaiah told Hezekiah that the LORD heard him; He would crush Sennacherib for claiming victories in his own name (that God had enabled)

(19:30–31) Isaiah told Hezekiah that the LORD would give him a sign: Jerusalemites would eat volunteer food from outside the city walls for 2 years & would sow & reap in the 3rd as the basis for the remnant in Jerusalem to survive

(19:32–34) Isaiah told Hezekiah that Sennacherib would not lay siege against Jerusalem

(19:35–36) One night (in 701 BC) the Angel of the LORD slew 185,000 Assyrians

(19:37) Sennacherib returned home & his sons assassinated him (in 681 BC) while he worshipped in a temple

(20:1–7) Hezekiah became deathly ill; Isaiah told him to set his house in order; Hezekiah prayed, the LORD promised to heal him and let him live 15 years

(20:8–12) Hezekiah requested a sign of this healing, Isaiah asked whether he wanted the sundial's shadow to fast-forward or rewind; Hezekiah asked for it to rewind

(20:13) The Babylonian king sent letters and a present to Hezekiah when he recovered; Hezekiah showed the Babylonians all his wealth and weaponry

(20:14–18) Isaiah rebuked Hezekiah for showing the treasures and prophesied that Babylon would sack Jerusalem, deport the royal family, and make his descendants into eunuchs in the king of Babylon's palace

(20:19) Hezekiah proclaimed this word from the LORD to be good, because there would be peace and truth in his days

(20:20–21) Hezekiah's military achievements and building of the water-supply tunnel are recorded elsewhere; ultimately he died and his son Manasseh reigned in his place

SUMMARY OF *HEZEKIAH*: AGAINST ALL ODDS!