

# King Hezekiah of Judah

2 Kings 18:1–20:21



## bible verse

COMMITTING TO MEMORY

# Ms

main street

May 1, 2011

## Psalm 145:18

The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.



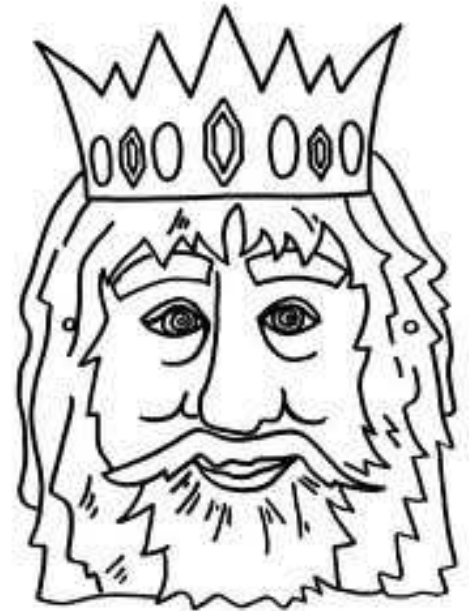
## story lesson

BIBLE STORY

Hezekiah was a king of Judah, and he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. "Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. He held fast to the Lord and did not cease to follow him... and the Lord was with him..." (2 Kings 18:5-7). Hezekiah was an obedient king, wholeheartedly devoted to the Lord God of Israel.

During the fourth year of King Hezekiah's reign, the city of Samaria fell and the people of Israel were exiled to Assyria. "This happened because they had not obeyed the Lord their God, but had violated his covenant..." (2 Kings 18:12). In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, the king of Assyria began an attack on the fortified cities in Judah. Hezekiah agreed to pay money to the king to withdraw from them. "So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the temple of the Lord and in the treasuries of the royal palace" (2 Kings 18:15).

Nonetheless, the king of Assyria, Sennacherib, sent his supreme commander to Jerusalem to threaten it. "On what are you basing this confidence of yours? You say you have strategy and military strength—but you speak only empty words. On whom are you depending, that you rebel against me?" (2 Kings 18:19-20). The commander



pressed for more tribute and a greater bargain. The field commander spoke to the Israelites in their language. "Do not listen to Hezekiah... Make peace with me and come out to me. Then every one of you will eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistem" (2 Kings 18:31). In this, the commander wanted the people to rebel against Hezekiah. He also spoke words against the Lord saying that no one could stand against the might of Assyria. "But the people remained silent and said nothing in reply because the king had commanded, 'Do not answer him'" (2 Kings 18:36). A palace secretary told Hezekiah all that the commander had said.



Hezekiah "tore his clothes and put on sackcloth" and went before the Lord to pray (2 Kings 19:1). The king also told all the people to pray as well. Isaiah the prophet spoke to Hezekiah:

"Tell your master, 'This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid of what you have heard—those words with which the underlings of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. Listen! I am going to put such a spirit in him that when he hears a certain report, he will return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword'" (2 Kings 19:6-7).

The field commander heard the king was fighting at another place and withdrew. Sennacherib sent word to Hezekiah warning that Jerusalem has not escaped the sword yet, and that no nation has stood up against the mighty Assyrians.

Sennacherib eventually came back to Jerusalem, and King Hezekiah prayed earnestly before the Lord. "Give ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to insult the living God ... Now, O Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O Lord, are God" (2 Kings 19:16, 19). As a result of Hezekiah's prayer, Isaiah the prophet prophesies the downfall of Sennacherib (2 Kings 19:20-34).

"That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. Then the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew... One day, while he was worshipping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammenlech and Sharezer cut him down with the sword..." (2 Kings 19:35-37).

**185,000**  
MEN KILLED

Thus the Lord God saved the people of Judah from the Assyrians.

There was a point in Hezekiah's life when he got very ill and was on the verge of death. The prophet Isaiah went and visited the king and told him to put his house in order for he was going to die. Hezekiah then turned his face toward the wall and sought the Lord: "Remember, O Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes... and he wept

bitterly” (2 Kings 20:3). As Isaiah was walking out of the court of the king, the Lord told him to go back to Hezekiah and tell him that the Lord has heard your prayer and will heal him. The Lord promised him fifteen more years to his life and the continued protection from the Assyrians.

# FIFTEEN MORE YEARS

Hezekiah asked for a sign from the Lord. Isaiah asked Hezekiah if the shadow should go forward ten steps, or back ten steps. Hezekiah wanted it to go back ten steps. “...and the Lord made the shadow go back ten steps...” (2 Kings 20:11).



And so Hezekiah was healed and he lived another fifteen years. The Lord protected the land of Judah from the Assyrians during Hezekiah’s lifetime. “Hezekiah rested with his father. And Manasseh his son succeeded him as king” (2 Kings 20:21).

Hezekiah fully obeyed the Lord during his kingship. He pointed the people toward the Lord their God and did not allow them to worship idols or the gods of the land. He sought the Lord his God during time of crisis. Hezekiah did not rely on the gods of the land, but the one true God of Israel. Hezekiah still did not do some things right, but then that gives us some hope, eh? He still trusted in the Lord.



## life application

MAKING IT REAL

---

### Great Faith

Hezekiah is a great example of a man who represents the Lord well and has great faith. This king fully relied on the Lord when 180,000 enemies had the city of Jerusalem surrounded. He is an amazing example of faith.



## questions

REMEMBERING

---

- 1. Who was the king of Judah that trusted in the Lord God of Israel?** Hezekiah
- 2. Who was the king of Assyria?** Sennacherib
- 3. What did King Hezekiah do every time the Assyrians came knocking?** He prayed earnestly before the Lord
- 4. Who was the special prophet during the time of King Hezekiah?** Isaiah
- 5. When King Hezekiah learned that he was going to die, what did he do?** He prayed earnestly before the Lord
- 6. How many more years did the Lord promise King Hezekiah would live?**  
15 more years



## coloring sheet

ON THE NEXT PAGE

---

PEOPLE OF ISRAEL -  
AS YOUR NEW KING, THINGS  
WILL BE DIFFERENT NOW.  
THIS IS MY NEW LAW:  
ALL OF YOUR IDOLS HAVE GOT  
TO GO!



**King Hezekiah of Judah**