

**Lesson 6**  
**(2 Kings 18)**

**THE DAY THE DEVIL CAME TO ZION**

*HEZEKIAH, KING OF JUDAH (2 KINGS 18:1-8)*

59. Hezekiah is one of the two greatest kings of Judah (His great-grandson, Josiah, is the other). Re-read the following verses about Hezekiah's greatness and answer the questions.
- a. 2 Kings 18:3. To whom is Hezekiah so favorably compared? How did Judah's kings in the generations before Hezekiah measure up?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. 2 Kings 18:4a. Why does the writer of 2 Kings commend Hezekiah for destroying the high places? Do you think Hezekiah targeted all the high places or just the ones dedicated to false gods?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. 2 Kings 18:5. What does it mean to trust in God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. 2 Kings 18:6. What does the writer of 2 Kings mean when he says that Hezekiah "held fast to the LORD"?

*HEZEKIAH ATTEMPTS TO APPEASE SENNACHERIB (2 KINGS 18:9-16)*

60. Why do you suppose the writer of 2 Kings included verses 9-12 (a brief review of the story of Israel's destruction related in detail in chapter 17) in his summary evaluation of King Hezekiah's reign?

61. How did Hezekiah attempt to pacify Sennacherib, king of Assyria? Why was this a sin? Considering that Hezekiah's faith in God failed, why did the writer of 2 Kings praise him so much in 2 Kings 18:3-8?

*THE ASSYRIANS INVADE JUDAH (2 KINGS 18:17-37)*

62. The two speeches of the Assyrian field commander (called the Rabshakeh in other translations such as the KJV and ESV) are cunning and logical but blasphemous. They are crafty mixtures of truths, half-truths, and lies. Consider the following questions about the field commander's first speech directed to Hezekiah's officials:
- a. What word is repeated at least five times between verses 19 and 25? What was the field commander insinuating by this repetition? How is his insinuation a direct attack on Hezekiah's faith as expressed in verses 5 and 6?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Re-read 2 Kings 18:22. What do you think the Assyrian commander meant about Hezekiah's policy of destroying the high places? Was he telling the truth? Would some of the people of Jerusalem have agreed with the field commander's accusation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Compare the Assyrian field commander's references to Egypt to Isaiah 31:1. Are the field commander and the prophet saying the same thing? Explain your answer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. Consider the reference to chariots and horsemen at the end of 2 Kings 18:24. Explain the field commanders taunt. Now review 2 Kings 2:12 and 13:14. According to these verses, who were the true chariots and

horsemen of God's people? Based on this answer, what do you think the Assyrian commander may have been implying in his offer of horses and chariots?

- e. Read Isaiah 7:17 and 8:7-8. How much do the divine words revealed by Isaiah in these verses agree with the field commander's claim in 2 Kings 18:25? Explain your answer.

63. The Assyrian field commander's second speech is directed more to the soldiers defending the city's walls than Hezekiah's representatives. Answer the following questions about this second speech.

- a. Why did Hezekiah's officials ask the Assyrian field commander to speak in Aramaic? Why did the field commander refuse?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. According to the field commander, what were the defenders of Jerusalem going to be forced to eat and drink? Why was this going to happen?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. Review the Assyrian commander's words in verses 31 and 32. What did he promise to give the people to eat and drink? What was the price for this food and drink? Now read Deuteronomy 8:7-9 and Micah 4:4. Based on these verses explain what the essence of the field commander's promise was and why his promise was blasphemous?

- d. What phrase did the field commander repeat in each verse from 2 Kings 18:28 to 32? What is the key concept that is repeated in verses 33 and 34? What was the field commander hoping to do by these repetitions?

#### *WHERE IS JESUS?*

64. Re-read 2 Kings 18:4b and review Numbers 21:4-9 for the origin of the bronze snake made by Moses that in Hezekiah's time was known as Nehushtan. Why do you think the Judahites had started to worship the bronze snake? Now read John 3:13-14. What did Jesus have to say about the bronze snake? How is it that neutral or even good artifacts sometimes become idols? Can you think of something God instituted for the benefit of His church that has been perverted into an idolatrous practice?
  
65. Read Mark 8:34 and 2 Corinthians 4:8-9. If Hezekiah was the most faithful king that Judah ever had, why did God allow him to suffer such a trauma as the invasion of the Assyrians? What do the experience of "good king Hezekiah" and the words of Christ and Paul teach Christians about life under the cross?
  
66. The Assyrian field commander can be viewed as a type of Satan because his words show us how the devil operates on a much larger and more destructive scale.
  - a. Cite some specific examples from the field commander's speeches and explain how his arguments are like those of the devil when he tempts Christians.

- b. How did the people of Jerusalem respond to the Assyrian commander's second speech? How did Hezekiah's three officials respond? How did Christ respond to Satan's temptations in Matthew 4:1-11? What do all of these responses teach us about how to react when the devil tempts us?

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