



Lesson 144

Hezekiah Prays for Deliverance

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 2 Kings 18:13-19:35 • Setting: circa 701 BC, in Jerusalem • Main Characters: God, Hezekiah, Isaiah, and Sennacherib • Plot: The Assyrians threaten Jerusalem, but Hezekiah trusts the LORD for deliverance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): “thou art the God, thou _____” (cf. 19:15, 19) • Climax: 2 Kings 19:19 <i>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.</i> |
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Sennacherib Invades

1. (2 Ki. 18:13-16) In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign, the Assyrians invaded Judah and besieged many of the major cities.
 - a) Hezekiah scraped all the wealth he could from his kingdom to pay Sennacherib off – a total of eleven tons of silver and one _____ of gold.¹
 - b) (2 Ki. 18:17-37) But the heavy fee that was paid was not enough and Sennacherib sent his lieutenants to Jerusalem to demand absolute _____ (Sennacherib himself was busy sacking Lachish).
 - c) These Assyrian officers, Rab-shakeh, Tartan, and Rabsaris spoke _____ of God (v 35), threatened the city with a severe siege (vs. 27), and promised clemency to any who would betray Hezekiah and join the Assyrians (vv 31-32).

Hezekiah Prays

2. (2 Ki. 19:1-7) Hezekiah and his officers rended their clothes and told _____ the prophet all the Assyrian threats. The prophet reassured the king, saying, “*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.'*” God would send deliverance and Sennacherib would return to his native land and die there.
3. (2 Ki. 19:8-13) The Assyrian invasion had as its goal the conquest of all kingdoms in the Fertile Crescent and down into Egypt. Judah was one of those kingdoms.
 - a) As Sennacherib pushed towards Egypt he heard that the King of _____ was coming out against him (v 9).
 - b) Consequently, Sennacherib prioritized the conquest of _____ and sent a letter to Hezekiah containing his last threats before laying siege to the city.
4. (2 Ki. 19:14-19) Unlike his father _____ who did not seek the LORD in his time of need (Isa. 7:11-12), Hezekiah took Sennacherib's threatening letter to the temple, laid it before the LORD, and prayed saying, “*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.*”

¹ MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005) 463.

Jehovah Saves

5. (2 Ki. 19:20-35) God promised Hezekiah that the Assyrians would not only fail to conquer Jerusalem, but that they wouldn't even besiege it.
- a) The next morning, the angel of the LORD smote the Assyrian camp and killed _____ Assyrian warriors. Sennacherib was forced to retreat from his occupation of Judah.
- b) (2 Ki. 19:36-37) Years later, after Sennacherib had returned to Nineveh, he was assassinated by his own sons as he worshiped his pagan god _____. The word of the LORD that was spoken by the prophet Isaiah had come to pass (cf. 19:7)

Application

6. Rab-shakeh said the LORD had abandoned Judah because Hezekiah tore down the high places (18:22). How foolish are unbelievers when they measure God by their own _____. What was Hezekiah's greatest pious accomplishment was viewed by the Assyrian heathen as sin. Such is the ignorance of those who do not love God's law, and in their willful ignorance they call evil that which is good.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; That put darkness for light, and light for darkness; That put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

7. Hezekiah believed in the power of prayer, or rather, he believed in the power of God and his prayers were evidence of that faith. One very important lesson in prayer that Hezekiah teaches is something we see over and over in the Bible regarding prayer: we should pray according to God's will, or to put it differently, ***we should pray that God will work in such a way that he is exalted and his name glorified***. Hezekiah's prayer shows that he was more concerned about God's _____ than his own life. This should be our attitude in our prayer closets.

Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.13 ...For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Notes: _____

Answer Key: : Key word(s): "alone" • 1. a) ton; b) surrender; c) blasphemously • 2. Isaiah • 3. a) Ethiopia; b) Jerusalem • 4. Ahaz • 5. 185,000 • 6. idols • 7. glory

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.