

Lesson 21: 2 Kings 18:1 to 20:21 Hezekiah's Reforms

The *siege of Samaria began* under the Assyrian king Shalmaneser V. occurred between 726-721 BC . However, he died just before the city was conquered. The conquest of the Northern Kingdom of Israel was finished by Sargon II. When Sargon became king in 722, he incorporated Samaria into the Assyrian empire. He deported 27,290 citizens of the Northern Kingdom to Assyria. **Hezekiah** became king of Judah ~715 B.C. During his reign, all of Hezekiah's actions, his political and economic reforms, and his alliances with Egypt were preparation for his revolt against Assyria.

1. Read 2 Kings 18:1-12 and share any footnotes with your group.

a. *Hoshea* is king of Israel. Who is king of Judah in these verses?

b. Was he a good king or a bad king?

c. What do we learn about this king in 2 Kings 18:2?

d. List the accomplishments of this king of Judah as noted in the following verses:

18:3-4

18:5-6

18:7-8

e. What is happening in Israel in 2 Kings 18:9-10.

f. Who was king of Assyria at this time?

g. What happened to the Israelites? See 18:11.

2. Read Deuteronomy 28:15, 20, 25 here and 2 Kings 18:12.

¹⁵ But if you do not obey the voice of the Lord, your God, carefully observing all his commandments and statutes which I give you today, all these curses shall come upon you and overwhelm you:

²⁰ The Lord will send on you a curse, panic, and frustration in everything you set your hand to, until you are speedily destroyed and perish for the evil you have done in forsaking me.

²⁵ The Lord will let you be beaten down before your enemies; though you advance against them from one direction, you will flee before them in seven, so that you will become an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.

Why has Israel fallen at the hands of their enemies?

3. Read 2 Kings 18:13-16 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

Assyria had turned against Judah in these verses and captured several Judean cities.

Hezekiah paid a tribute to his enemy hoping he would leave Jerusalem alone.

What is it that he pays to the Assyrians?

4. Read 2 Kings 18:17-25 and footnotes.

a. The Assyrians now intend to conquer Jerusalem. A great army is assembled near Jerusalem and they call King Hezekiah out. Who is it that responds on behalf of Judah/Jerusalem instead?

b. *Compare translations of 18:21-22 with the NIV translation here.*

18:21-22 Look, I know you are depending on Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff, which pierces the hand of anyone who leans on it! Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who depend on him. ²² But if you say to me, "We are depending on the Lord our God"—*isn't he the one whose high places and altars Hezekiah removed, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, "You must worship before this altar in Jerusalem"?*

c. Who has Judah sought assistance from according to the Assyrians? (18:21-24)

