

2 KINGS 18 vs 1

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The first and second books of the kings originally were one book, which Jewish tradition credits to the prophet Jeremiah. The subject follows the successes and failures of the kings of both Judah and Israel. This second book of kings follows the decline of **Israel** leading up to their captivity in Aram; and 170 years later, to the decline of **Judah** leading up to their captivity in Babylon.

Hezekiah, king of Judah,

¹ Now it happened in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign.

² He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Abi, the daughter of Zachariah.

³ And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did.

⁴ He removed the high places, and broke the images, and cut down the groves, and broke in pieces the bronze serpent Moses made: for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan / so he eliminated demon worship 700 years earlier the LORD instructed Moses to raise this bronze figure -- representing Messiah: look to it and be healed, and so they were; but 700 years later apparently -- like our genius generation, they thought their old baggage from the wilderness contained some hocus pocus power; superseding knowing God. It obviously did not.

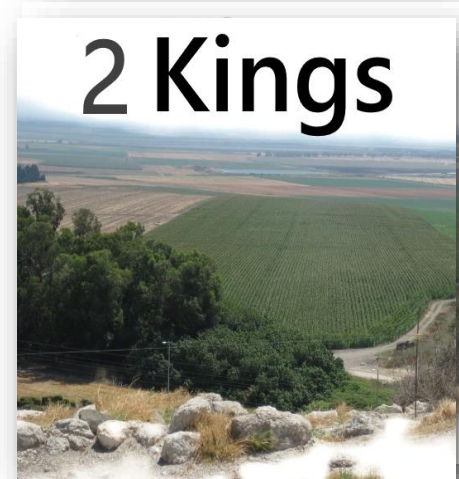
⁵ He leaned on the LORD, the God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any who were before him.

⁶ For he clung to the LORD, and did not abandon Him, but kept His instructions, which the LORD instructed Moses / so Hezekiah did what the Lord told all His people to do in every generation; from Adam, until those in the church of Philadelphia in the last days.

⁷ And the LORD was with him; and wherever he went he prospered: and he rebelled against the king of Aram, and did not serve him.

⁸ He struck down the Philistines, as far as Gaza, and its borders, from the watchtower to the fortified city.

⁹ And it happened in the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Aram came up against Samaria, and besieged it.



¹⁰ **And at the end of three years they took it: even in the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.**

¹¹ **And the king of Aram took away Israel to Aram, and resettled them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and the cities of the Medes: / Israel,** the 10 northern tribes were resettled between Aram (modern day Syria) and old Babylon, at the foot of the Caucasus Mountains; Israel was to serve as a buffer zone between the two warring countries; but that didn't last long. Israel went north passing through the Caucasus and seemingly disappeared, at the very same time the Caucasian tribes spread out north and west, into the Russian steeps and across Europe, and particularly Scandinavia.

The exile of Israel included Ephraim who took the promises given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who in the last days is a great commonwealth of nations; and Manasseh, a great nation at the center of the world, with the others who were exiled; 170 years before Judah went to Babylon. So why were they removed?

¹² **because they did not obey what the LORD their God said, but stepped over the line of His covenant, and all that Moses, servant of the LORD instructed them they not listen or do it.**

10 years later, rescued from Sennacherib,

¹³ **Now in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Aram came up against all the fortified cities of Judah, and took them / and did King Hezekiah flinch? Where is his faith?.**

¹⁴ **And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Aram at Lachish, saying, I have wronged you; withdraw from me: whatever you impose on me, I will bear. So the king of Aram required of Hezekiah king of Judah 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold / 1 talent was the average weight of one man; so it wasn't 330 coins in total; it was a mountain of money.**

¹⁵ **And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the House of the LORD, and in the treasures of the household of the king. / why? It sounds like he is losing it!!**

¹⁶ **At that time, Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah overlaid, and gave it to the king of Aram.**

¹⁷ **And the king of Aram sent Tartan and Rab-saris and Rabshakeh/ the royal spokesman from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great army against Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they arrived, they went and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is on the highway of the fuller's field / where they did their laundry.**

¹⁸ **And when they called to the king, Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder came out to them.**

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19 Then Rabshakeh/ the royal spokesman said to them, Say to Hezekiah, Thus says the great king, the king of Aram, What confidence is this that you lean on?

20 You say -- but only in vain, I have counsel and strength for the war. Now on whom do you lean that you rebel against me?

21 Now behold, you lean on a staff of this broken reed Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who lean on him.

22 But if you say to me, We lean on the LORD our God: is it not He, whose high places and altars Hezekiah has destroyed, and has said to Judah and Jerusalem, You will worship before this altar in Jerusalem? / and the answer to demon worship in high places is: NO it is not.

23 So now, indeed give your promise to my lord the king of Aram, and I will deliver to you 2,000 horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them / they didn't have 2,000 in their cavalry to protect the people of Jerusalem.

24 How then can you refuse even the least captain of my master's servants, and lean on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?

25 Am I now here without the approval of the LORD to destroy this place? The LORD said to me, Go up against this land, and destroy it. / YES, the Lord used an evil spirit to get him to come and to go. The king of Aram sounds like a chirping bird on the balcony, over a little piece of bread.

26 Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and Shebna, and Joah said, to Rabshakeh / the royal spokesman, Please speak to your servants in Aramaic; for we understand it: and do not communicate with us in Judean, in the hearing of the people who are on the wall.

27 But Rabshakeh/ the royal spokesman said to them, Has my master only sent me to your master and to you, to speak these words? Has he not sent me to the doomed men who sit on the wall, who may eat their own dung, and drink their own piss with you?

28 Then Rabshakeh/ the royal spokesman stood and cried with aloud in Judean, and spoke, saying, Hear the word of the great king, the king of Aram:

29 Thus says the king, Do not let Hezekiah deceive you: for he will not be able to deliver you from my hand:

30 nor let Hezekiah make you lean on the LORD, saying, The LORD will surely rescue us, and this city will not be delivered to the hand of the king of Aram.

31 Do not listen to Hezekiah: for thus says the king of Aram, Make your peace with me, and surrender to me, and then each eat the fruit of your own vine, and your fig tree, and drink each from your own water-supply:

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³² until I come and deport you to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive oil and of honey, that you may live, and not die. Do not listen to Hezekiah, when he persuades you, saying, The LORD will deliver us.

³³ Has any god of any nation ever yet delivered his land from the hand of the king of Aram?

³⁴ Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? Have they delivered Samaria from me?

³⁵ What gods, of all the gods of these lands, have delivered their land from my hand, that the LORD should now deliver Jerusalem from me?

³⁶ But the people made no reply, and answered him not a word: for the king instructed them saying, Do not answer him.

³⁷ Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder, with their clothes ripped went to Hezekiah, and reported to him the words of Rabshakeh.

[This event is also recorded in Isaiah 36-37](#)

[O Come Let Us Adore Him](#)

[God of Wonders](#)

[The Privileged Planet](#)

[Fibonacci in Nature; The Code of Life](#) | [We Came From Where?](#)

[We are grateful to God that the Saudi govt has preserved the Mountain of Moses](#)

I Can Only Imagine