

2 KINGS 20 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 recovers from a mortal illness,

¹ In those days Hezekiah was sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said to him, Thus says the LORD, Set your house in order; for you will die, and not live.

² Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the LORD, saying, / It is good to make known our requests to God; He tells us do that. But if He sends a prophetic word, pay attention and rejoice. This prayer ends in much evil. The king's life is extended 15 years, and a child, named **Manasseh** -- after the blessed son of Joseph; but this one born to Hezekiah, the joy of an old dotty father who can't discipline the family dog, none the less a son born to royalty, he turns out to be the worse thing to happen to **Judah**, whose beautiful prophet, Isaiah is murdered by Manasseh, stuffed in a tree and sawn in pieces.

³ I ask You, O LORD, remember how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in Your sight. And Hezekiah wept greatly. / It seems Hezekiah might have a little memory loss – if you go back to chapter 18.

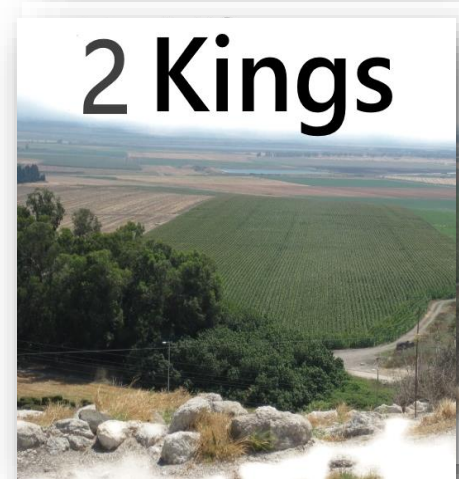
⁴ And it happened, before Isaiah had gone from the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

⁵ Return, and tell Hezekiah the captain of My people, Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father, I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears: behold, I will heal you: on the third day you will go up to the house of the LORD.

⁶ And I will add to your days fifteen years; and I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Aram; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of David My servant.

⁷ And Isaiah said, Take a bunch of figs. And they took and placed it on the boil, and he recovered.

⁸ And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, What will be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I will go up to the house of the LORD the third day?



⁹ And Isaiah said, This sign you will have from the LORD, that the LORD will do what He said: Will the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?

¹⁰ So Hezekiah answered, It is easy for the shadow to go down ten degrees: no, so let the shadow return backward ten degrees.

¹¹ And Isaiah the prophet cried out to the LORD: and He brought the shadow on the stairway back ten degrees, by which it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.

¹² At that time Berodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

¹³ And Hezekiah listened to them, and showed them all his treasury: the silver, gold, spices, precious oils, and all the weapons of his armory, and all that was found in his treasures. **There was nothing in his house, nor in all his kingdom, that Hezekiah did not show them.**

¹⁴ Then Isaiah the prophet came to king Hezekiah, and said to him, What did these men say? and where did they come from? And Hezekiah said, They came from a far country, from Babylon.

¹⁵ And he said, What have they seen in your house? And Hezekiah answered, All that is in my house they have seen: nothing among my treasures have I not shown them.

¹⁶ **And Isaiah said to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD.**

¹⁷ Behold, the days come, that all who are in your house, and whatever your fathers have laid up in store to this day, will be carried to Babylon: nothing will be left, says the LORD.

¹⁸ And some of your sons born to you, who you will father, they will take away; and will be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

¹⁹ Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, **the word of the LORD which you have spoken is good.** For he mistakenly thought, Is it not good, if there is peace and truth in my days?

²⁰ And the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and how he made a pool, and a conduit, and brought water to the city, are they not written in the Book of Chronicles of the Kings of **Judah**?

²¹ And Hezekiah slept with his fathers: and Manasseh his son reigned in his place / it is a serious thing to pray to our God with our endless lists and demands. When we read this remarkable event, remember, this one grew up to be among the most vile kings of Judah, who murdered prophet Isaiah.

God of Wonders