

2 Kings 19

Verses 1 - 7

Now when King Hezekiah heard *the report*, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and entered the house of the Lord. ² Then he sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the household, with Shebna the scribe and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz. ³ And they said to him, “This is what Hezekiah says: ‘This day is a day of distress, rebuke, and humiliation; for children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to deliver *them*.’ ⁴ Perhaps the Lord your God will hear all the words of Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to taunt the living God, and will avenge the words which the Lord your God has heard. Therefore, offer a prayer for the remnant that is left.’ ⁵ So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah. ⁶ And Isaiah said to them, “This is what you shall say to your master: ‘The Lord says this: “Do not be fearful because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me. ⁷ Behold, I am going to put a spirit in him so that he will hear news and return to his own land. And I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.

Now when King Hezekiah heard *the report*, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and entered the house of the Lord.

Hezekiah was a Godly king and God was certainly with him but he must have picked up a sinful habit from a previous king that did not know the Lord. It says he entered the house of the Lord rather than he went up to the house of the Lord. The Levite priests were the only ones given the right to enter the house of the Lord.

² Then he sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the household, with Shebna the scribe and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz.

This event took place around 714 BC.

See chart 1905

2nd Kings timeline

Ch.	Event	Other	Year
17	Hoshea king of Israel	19n	732
17	Israelites deported to Assyria		722
18	Hezekiah King of Judah	12s	715
18	Sennacherib threatens Jerusalem		
19	The prophet Isaiah sought		
19	Angel of the Lord kills 185,000 Assyrians		
20	Hezekiah given 15 more years		712
20	Hezekiah receives envoys from Babylon		

Hezekiah began his reign during the latter part of Isaiah's ministry.

See chart 1910

Prophets of Israel

Prophet	Kings and Events	Dates	Bible History
Jonah	Jehoash, Jeroboam II (Amaziah)	810-790 BC	2 Kings 13-14
Joel	Uzziah	790-760 BC	2 Kings 11-15
Amos	Jeroboam II (Uzziah)	780-760 BC	2 Kings 14-15
Hosea	Jeroboam II to Hoshea (Uzziah),	785-725 BC	2 Kings 15-18
Isaiah	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah	750-695 BC	2 Kings 15-20
Micah	Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah	745-725 BC	2 Kings 15

³ And they said to him, “This is what Hezekiah says: ‘This day is a day of distress, rebuke, and humiliation; for children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to deliver them.’

This was a common proverb of the time which meant that a dangerous crisis was approaching, and the nation doesn't have the strength to make it through the peril.

⁴ Perhaps the Lord your God will hear all the words of Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to taunt the living God, and will avenge the words which the Lord your God has heard. Therefore, offer a prayer for the remnant that is left.

Sennacherib had already captured and destroyed 46 cities in Judah, so those in the city of Jerusalem were a remnant.

See 2 Kings 18.13

¹³ Now in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria marched against all the fortified cities of Judah and seized them.

It doesn't say how many cities were captured in 2 Kings but the Assyrian annals say they captured 46 cities. Once again we have confirmation of Bible History from a secular source.

The Assyrian Annals were discovered in the mid-19th century in the ruins of ancient Nineveh, which is located near modern-day Mosul, Iraq. The Annals were found in the form of clay prisms and tablets written in Akkadian cuneiform script.

⁵ So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah. ⁶ And Isaiah said to them, “This is what you shall say to your master: ‘The Lord says this: “Do not be fearful because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.”

See verse 2 Kings 18:35

³⁵ Who among all the gods of the lands *are there* who have saved their land from my hand, that the LORD would save Jerusalem from my hand?

Comparing the Lord God with the various false gods of the pagan nations will bring down the King of Assyria.

⁷ Behold, I am going to put a spirit in him so that he will hear news and return to his own land. And I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.

This prophesy will be fulfilled by the end of this chapter.

Verses 8 - 13

⁸ Then Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that *the king* had left Lachish. ⁹ When he heard *them* say about Tirhakah king of Cush, “Behold, he has come out to fight you,” he sent messengers again to Hezekiah, saying, ¹⁰ “This is what you shall say to Hezekiah king of Judah: ‘Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by saying, “Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.”’ ¹¹ Behold, you yourself have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the lands, destroying them completely. So will you be saved? ¹² Did the gods of the nations which my fathers destroyed save them: Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the sons of Eden who were in Telassar? ¹³ Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, and of Hena and Ivvah?”

⁸ Then Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that *the king* had left Lachish

Libnah is north of Lachish

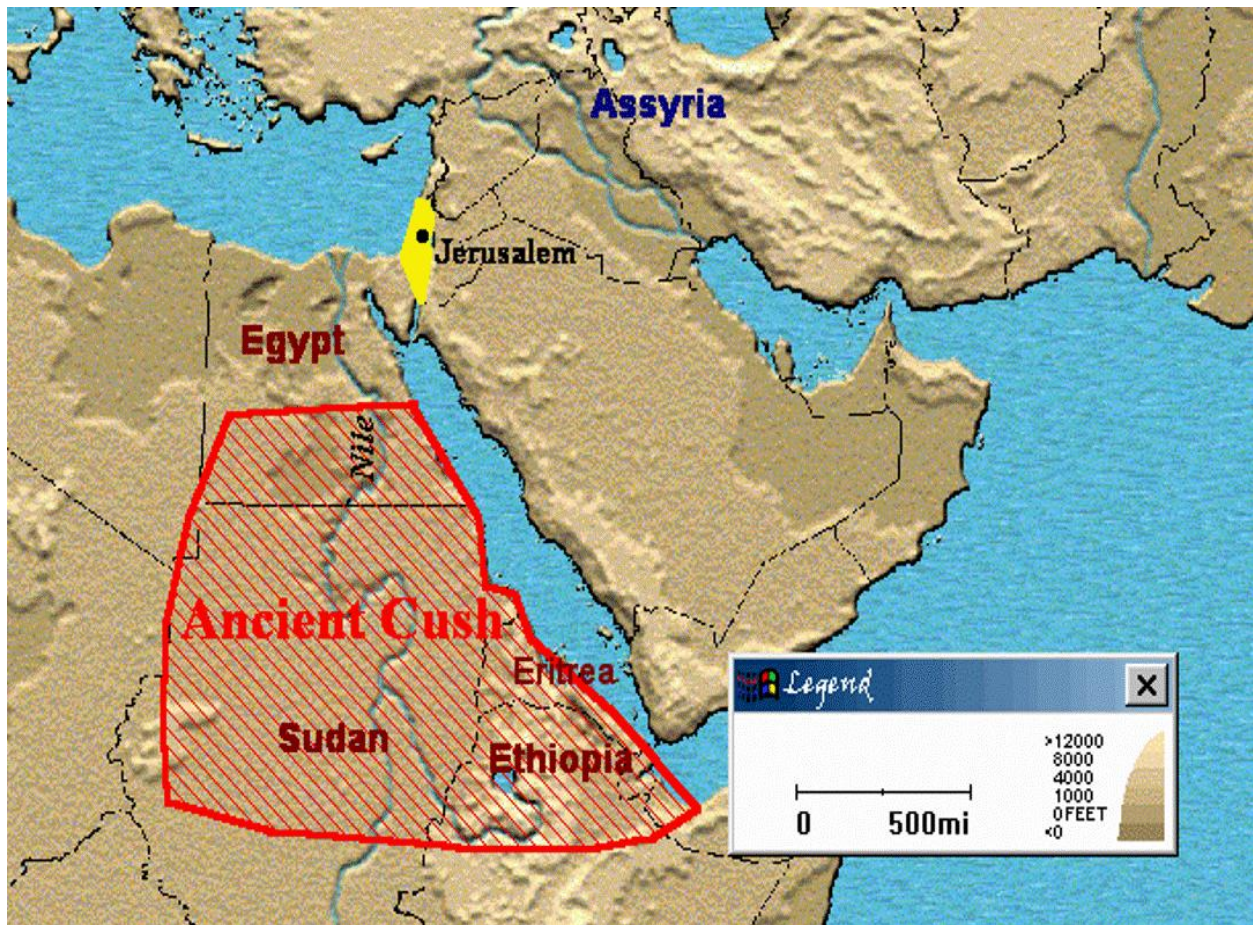
See Map 1915



⁹ When he heard *them* say about Tirhakah king of Cush, “Behold, he has come out to fight you,” he sent messengers again to Hezekiah

This news about the Ethiopian King didn't seem to bother the king of Assyria but given his pride and the fact that he had defeated the king of Egypt in 701 BC may have contributed to his unfettered confidence.

See pic 1920



¹⁰ “This is what you shall say to Hezekiah king of Judah: ‘Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by saying, “Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.” ¹¹ Behold, you yourself have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the lands, destroying them completely. So will you be saved?

Prior to this insult the King of Assyria had compared the Lord God to the other false gods of the nations. Now he calls Him a liar. God often overlooks the ignorance of man but there comes a time when pride cometh before the fall. We will shortly see God's reply.

Verses 14 - 19

¹⁴ Then Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it, and he went up to the house of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord. ¹⁵ Hezekiah prayed before the Lord and said, “Lord, God of Israel, enthroned *above* the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. ¹⁶ Incline Your ear, Lord, and hear; open Your eyes, Lord, and see; and listen to the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to taunt the living God. ¹⁷ It is true, Lord; the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, ¹⁸ and have hurled their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but *only* the work of human hands, wood and stone. So they have destroyed them. ¹⁹ But now, Lord our God, please, save us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, Lord, are God.”

Then Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it, and he went up to the house of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord.

The basis of Hezekiah's plea is not based merely on Judah's interests but on the vindication of God's glory.

¹⁵ Hezekiah prayed before the Lord and said, “Lord, God of Israel, enthroned *above* the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

God deserves our praise because He is the only true God and because He is the creator of Heaven and earth.

It is really sad that there are people in the church, who believe that God may have used evolution in order to create the Heavens and the earth. They have believed a lie that is the complete opposite of creation. Evolutionists believe that everything was made by time (billions of years), chance (no creative acts) and the laws of nature working on matter (no design by a creator). They take all the glory that belongs to God and attributes it to Nature. They do not (cannot) attribute anything to God and therefore must reject all of the miracles in the bible. They do not believe in a global flood but insist it was a regional flood.

If people do not trust Genesis 1-11 then how can they have any faith in the rest of scripture? The evidence for creation is overwhelming and every Christian should be prepared to give an answer to those who are seeking the truth.

¹⁹ But now, Lord our God, please, save us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, Lord, are God.”

Hezekiah and the people of Judah needed the Lord's help but the king also saw the bigger picture. Hezekiah used the same argument that God had made a number of times in the past. Two of the more memorable times were during the crossing of the Red Sea and the Jordan River.

See Joshua 4:24

²³ For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed, just as the Lord your God had done to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed; ²⁴ so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, so that you may fear the Lord your God forever.”

Verses 20 - 24

²⁰ Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent *word* to Hezekiah, saying, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: ‘Because you have prayed to me about Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard *you*.’ ²¹ This is the word that the Lord has spoken against him:

‘She, the virgin daughter of Zion, has shown contempt for you *and* mocked you; She, the daughter of Jerusalem, has shaken *her* head behind you!

²² Whom have you taunted and blasphemed?

And against whom have you raised *your* voice,

And haughtily raised your eyes?

Against the Holy One of Israel!

²³ Through your messengers you have taunted the Lord,

And you have said, “With my many chariots

I went up to the heights of the mountains,

To the remotest parts of Lebanon;

And I cut down its tall cedars *and* its choicest junipers.

And I entered its farthest resting place, its thickest forest.

²⁴ I dug *wells* and drank foreign waters,

And with the soles of my feet I dried up

All the streams of Egypt.”

²⁰ Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent *word* to Hezekiah, saying, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: ‘Because you have prayed to me about Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard you.’” ²¹ This is the word that the Lord has spoken against him:

The Lord heard Hezekiah because he had prayed to the Lord about his problem. Faith without works is dead. In this case the “works” was going to God in prayer. Does anyone believe that God would have saved Judah from this disaster if the king had not come to Him in prayer?

‘She, the virgin daughter of Zion, has shown contempt for you *and* mocked you; She, the daughter of Jerusalem, has shaken *her* head behind you!

Judah had shown contempt for the King of Assyria by not paying tribute to him.

²² **Whom have you taunted and blasphemed?
And against whom have you raised *your* voice,
And haughtily raised your eyes?
Against the Holy One of Israel!**

The king of Assyria had made a number of comments about the God of Jerusalem that were quite disparaging. Saying He was like the gods of other nations and by calling Him a liar.

²³ **Through your messengers you have taunted the Lord,
And you have said, “With my many chariots
I went up to the heights of the mountains,
To the remotest parts of Lebanon;
And I cut down its tall cedars *and* its choicest junipers.
And I entered its farthest resting place, its thickest forest.
²⁴ I dug *wells* and drank foreign waters,
And with the soles of my feet I dried up
All the streams of Egypt.”**

The arrogance of the Assyrian king is displayed here. He thinks all of this was accomplished because of his abilities when in fact God had allowed him to do this.

The king had captured nearly all the land from Lebanon to Egypt.

See Map 1925



Verses 25 - 28

²⁵ **‘Have you not heard?**

Long ago I did it;

From ancient times I planned it.

Now I have brought it about,

That you would turn fortified cities into ruined heaps.

²⁶ **Therefore their inhabitants were powerless,**

They were shattered and put to shame.

They were *like* the vegetation of the field and the green grass,

***Like* grass on the housetops that is scorched before it has grown.**

²⁷ **But I know your sitting down,**

Your going out, your coming in,

And your raging against Me.

²⁸ **Because of your raging against Me,**

And because your complacency has come to My ears,

I will put My hook in your nose,

And My bridle in your lips,

And I will turn you back by the way by which you came.

**²⁵ ‘Have you not heard?
Long ago I did it;
From ancient times I planned it.
Now I have brought it about,
That you would turn fortified cities into ruined heaps.**

Why do some nations rise and others fall? Because God has planned these things to happen according to his will. No nation should be prideful about its greatness.

**²⁸ Because of your raging against Me,
And because your complacency has come up to My ears,
I will put My hook in your nose,
And My bridle in your lips,
And I will turn you back by the way by which you came.**

Assyrian sculptures show captives being led before the king by a cord attached to a ring passing through the lip or nose. God will treat the Assyrians the same way they had treated others.

Verses 29 - 34

²⁹ ‘Then this shall be the sign for you: you will eat this year what grows of itself, in the second year what grows by itself, and in the third year sow, harvest, plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. ³⁰ The survivors that are left of the house of Judah will again *take* root downward and bear fruit upward. ³¹ For out of Jerusalem will go a remnant, and survivors out of Mount Zion. The zeal of the Lord will perform this. ³² ‘Therefore this is what the Lord says about the king of Assyria: “He will not come to this city nor shoot an arrow there; and he will not come before it with a shield nor heap up an assault ramp against it. ³³ By the way that he came, by the same he will return, and he shall not come to this city,”’ declares the Lord. ³⁴ ‘For I will protect this city to save it for my own sake, and for my servant David’s sake.

²⁹ ‘Then this shall be the sign for you: you will eat this year what grows of itself, in the second year what grows by itself, and in the third year sow, harvest, plant vineyards, and eat their fruit.

God is telling Hezekiah that life will return to normal in the third year but in the mean time they will have food to eat by harvesting what grows naturally.

³⁰ The survivors that are left of the house of Judah will again *take root downward and bear fruit upward*.

Judah will recover their territory (the 46 fortified cities) that had been lost to the Assyrians before God intervenes to save Jerusalem. However, as was noted in the prior verse, the recovery from that destruction will take some time.

³¹ For out of Jerusalem will go a remnant, and survivors out of Mount Zion. The zeal of the Lord will perform this.

God started with the good news about their recovery but there is some bad news concerning the future. Jerusalem will fall and only a remnant of the people will survive. Unfortunately, this remnant will not remain in Jerusalem.

³² Therefore this is what the Lord says about the king of Assyria: “He will not come to this city nor shoot an arrow there; and he will not come before it with a shield nor heap up an assault ramp against it.

This was a message of great joy because there would be no battle for the city. Only the Lord can do such a thing and it will be remembered as one of the greatest victories ever given to the Jewish nation.

Verses 35 - 38

³⁵ Then it happened that night that the angel of the Lord went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when *the rest* got up early in the morning, behold, all of the 185,000 were dead. ³⁶ So Sennacherib the king of Assyria departed and returned *home*, and lived at Nineveh. ³⁷ Then it came about, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer killed him with the sword; and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And his son Esarhaddon became king in his place.

³⁵ Then it happened that night that the angel of the Lord went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when *the rest* got up early in the morning, behold, all of the 185,000 were dead.

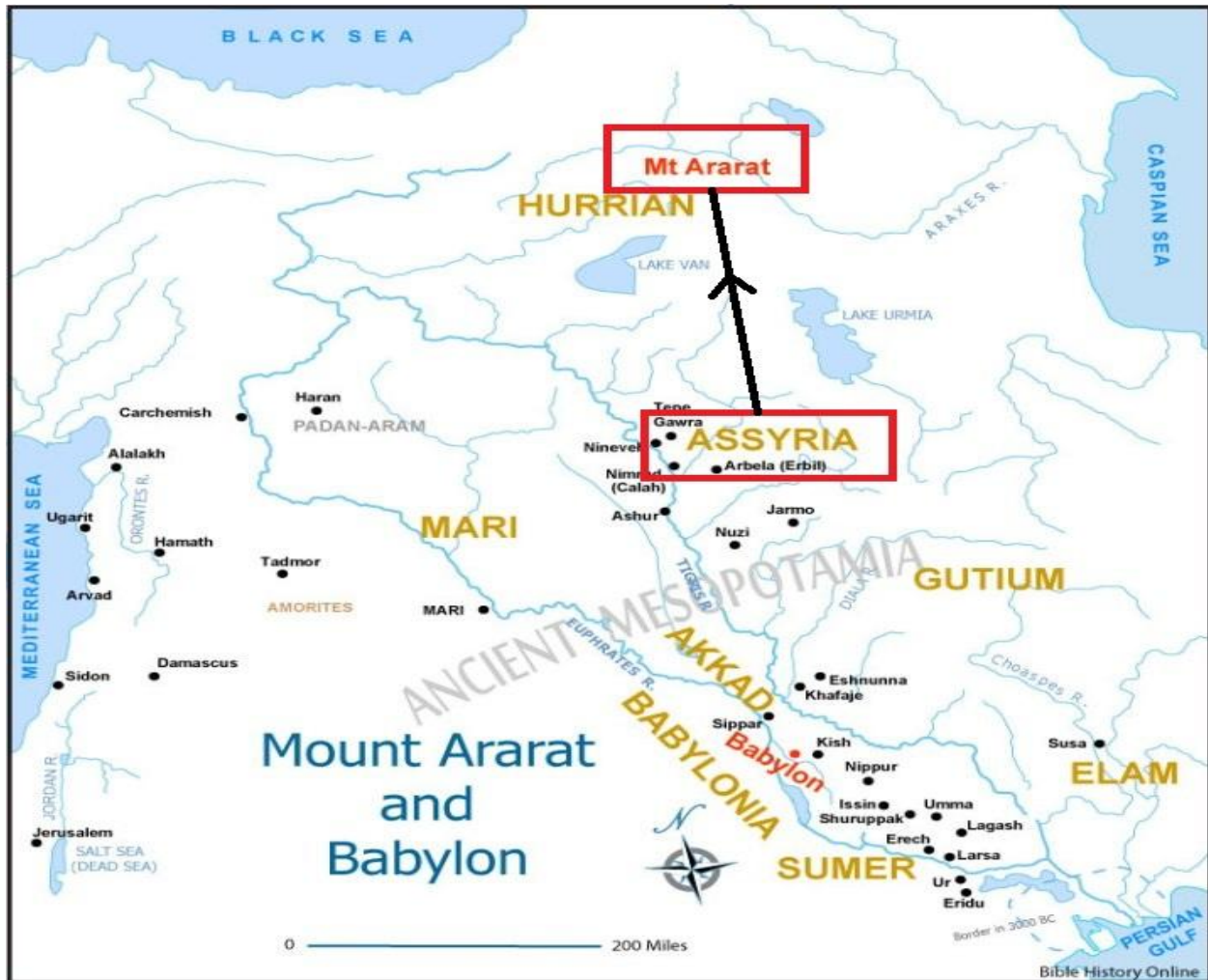
The angel of the Lord mentioned here is the Son of God.

God did not send a legion of angels to kill all these soldiers. Instead, he sent his Son who only needed to speak a command, and 185,000 men died without the other men being awakened.

The number of men that died was staggering and all Sennacherib could do was go home. Those who did survive must have wondered what had happened and were probably in a state of shock. This may have been why the king was not killed on the journey home.

³⁷ Then it came about, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that **Adrammelech and Sharezer killed him with the sword; and they escaped to the land of Ararat.** And his son Esarhaddon became king in his place.

See Map 1930



The place they escaped to should sound familiar. This is where the Ark of Noah rested after the flood.

The assassination of Sennacherib took place in 681 BC. The two assassins named here were two of his sons

See Isaiah 37:38

³⁸ Then it came about, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer killed him with the sword; and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And his son Esarhaddon became king in his place.