

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON
WEEK 29

God is glorified by protecting Judah

2 Kings 18:1–19:37



DAY 1

The Assyrians came • 2 Kings 18:1–16

READ 

2 Kings 18:1–16

EXPLAIN 

The truth of 2 Kings 18:1–16

Why do bad things happen to good people? Hezekiah was a very good king who faced very serious trouble. No king of Judah so far had been as zealous for God as David had been—until Hezekiah (2 Kgs 18:3). Hezekiah got rid of idolatry and all unauthorized worship (18:4). He trusted God more than any other king (18:5). He kept God's commands (18:6b) and stayed faithful to the end (18:6a). As a result, God blessed Hezekiah with the success that comes from obedience (18:7–8; Deut 28:1–14; Josh 1:8). But then Sennachrib, the king of Assyria, invaded and devastated Judah (1 Kings 18:13). How could this be if obedience leads to blessing? First, Judah's defeat was a direct consequence of past sin. The sins of Solomon (1 Kgs 11), Rehoboam (1 Kgs 12), and others brought Judah to this point. Second, as the story will show, God allowed this trouble in order to show His great power to deliver. Third, this trouble increased Hezekiah's faith. At first Hezekiah tried to stop Sennacherib by his own strength (18:15–16). But when his bribe failed, he threw himself entirely upon God.

ASK 

1. What was King Hezekiah known for?
He was known for his great faith and for destroying all false worship.
2. What happened to Israel and why?
God caused them to be defeated and exiled because of their sin.
3. Why did trouble come to faithful people like Hezekiah?
Because they still live in a sin-cursed world (Rom 8:22–23). Because God uses it to show His power to save and to increase their faith.

DISCUSS 

1. Describe a time when one person's sin hurt many others. When will the affects of sin end (Rom 8:23; Rev 21:4)?
2. Have you suffered when you were doing what is right? Does obedience guarantee you will only experience blessing?

DAY 2

The Assyrians boasted • 2 Kings 18:17–36; 19:8–13

READ

2 Kings 18:17–36; 19:8–13

EXPLAIN

The truth of 2 Kings 18:17–36; 19:8–13

Bullies brag and threaten and mock, and that's what Sennacherib sent his official, the Rabshakeh, to do. He shouted in Hebrew in order to weaken the faith of everyone in Jerusalem (1 Kgs 18:26–28). First, he cleverly mixed truth with error. He was right that Judah could not trust Egypt (18:21). He was right that Hezekiah had destroyed the high places (18:22). But he was wrong that God was upset about the destruction of the high places. Second, he mocked Judah's weakness (18:23–24). Third, he spoke outright lies. He claimed God had told Sennacherib to destroy Judah (18:25). Fourth, he threatened. He questioned their hope of deliverance, claiming that if Judah continued to resist, they would be left so hungry that they would eat and drink filth (18:27). He claimed that neither Hezekiah nor God would be able to deliver them (18:29–30), so they should trust Sennacherib instead (18:31–32). Then he made a big mistake: the Rabshakeh insulted God Himself (18:33–35; 19:8–13). He should have paid attention to what happened when Goliath insulted Israel's God (1 Sam 17:45–51).

ASK

1. Why did the Rabshakeh speak in Hebrew?
He wanted all the people of Jerusalem to hear him to weaken their faith in God.
2. How did the Rabshakeh undermine Judah's faith?
He said God was unhappy with Hezekiah, that God had told him to destroy Jerusalem, and that God could not save Jerusalem because no other gods could save their nations.
3. How did the Rabshakeh try to deceive Judah?
By mixing truth with error.
4. What did the Rabshakeh compare God to?
The powerless gods of other nations.

DISCUSS

1. Have you heard people attack Christianity by mixing truth with lies? Why is this combination so deadly?
2. Why was the Rabshakeh foolish to compare God to idols? How do people do this today in the way they live?

DAY 3

Hezekiah prayed • 2 Kings 18:37–19:7, 14–19

READ

2 Kings 18:37–19:7, 14–19

EXPLAIN

The truth of 2 Kings 18:37–19:7, 14–19

Hezekiah's enemies were strong, his resources were low, and his allies were weak. So he went to God's temple and mourned (2 Kgs 19:1). He cast all his burdens upon God (Ps 55:22). He sought God's word through Isaiah (2 Kgs 19:2). He trusted God to respond and defend His own honor (19:4). Isaiah gave hope: Do not fear, for God will make the king of Assyria go away and die (19:5–7). But after a second

message from the Rabshakeh (19:8–13), Hezekiah may have begun to doubt Isaiah's words. So Hezekiah prayed again (19:14–19). He began by remembering who God is, praising Him as the only God and the Maker of all things (19:15). Then he described his need to God (19:16–17), which helped give him the right perspective (19:18). After this he presented his request, asking God to save Judah (19:19a; Phil 4:6–7). Finally, he stated the reason for his request: "That all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O LORD, are God alone" (2 Kgs 19:19b).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What did Hezekiah do after he was told the words of the Rabshakeh?
“He tore his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of the LORD” (2 Kgs 19:1).
2. How did Hezekiah pray?
He depended on God. He let God know his need. He remembered who God is and praised Him. He prayed for God to defend His glory.
3. On what basis did Hezekiah ask God to save Israel?
On the basis of God’s own name. That God might be honored in all the earth (2 Kgs 19:19).

DISCUSS 

1. What are some troubles you have faced or are facing now? Have you brought these troubles to God in prayer? Do your prayer patterns reflect a life of dependence on God?
2. When you ask God for help in prayer, do you also remember to praise and thank Him?

DAY 4*God answered • 2 Kings 19:20–34***READ** 

2 Kings 19:20–34

EXPLAIN **The truth of 2 Kings 19:20–34**

The Rabshakeh mocked, Hezekiah prayed, and now it was God’s turn. Didn’t they realize, He said, that they were messing with “the Holy One of Israel,” not some false god (2 Kgs 19:22)? God is holy, separate, not like other so-called gods. Sennacherib and the Rabshakeh were fools: by raging against God they guaranteed their own defeat (19:27; cf. 1 Sam 17:36). They were also arrogant, claiming credit for themselves even though their victories had been given by God (2 Kgs 19:23–26). Assyria often led away their captives with hooks in their noses, but now God would do the same to them (19:28). While putting Assyria in its place, God would rescue Jerusalem (19:29–31). He would prevent Assyria from stepping foot inside the city (19:32–33). Why was God so zealous to defend Jerusalem? He would do it “for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David” (19:34). Just as Hezekiah had prayed, God always acts for the sake of His own name, for His own glory (Isa 42:8; 48:11), which means He also acts for the sake of His people.

ASK 

1. How did Sennacherib guarantee his own defeat?
By mocking the Holy One of Israel.
2. Who had given Assyria its previous victories in battle?
God.
3. How would God lead Assyria away?
With a hook in their nose, just like Assyria used to lead away their captives.
4. What would God defend Jerusalem?
By protecting those who trust Him, God is defending His own glory.

DISCUSS 

1. Have you ever claimed credit for things that God has allowed you to do? What are some other ways people express pride against God?
2. Why is pride such a bad idea? Why do the proud lead a hard life (Jas 4:6)?

DAY 5

The Assyrians left • 2 Kings 19:35–37

READ

2 Kings 19:35–37

EXPLAIN

The truth of 2 Kings 19:35–37

God had given a huge promise. But would God's word really come true? How could Judah, with no army and no resources, defeat the massive Assyrian army? They couldn't. But God did. In one night the angel of the LORD slaughtered 185,000 Assyrians (2 Kgs 19:35), and those who survived returned to Nineveh (19:36). If just one **angel**, just one fiery warrior of God, was able to annihilate a huge army in one night, then nothing is impossible with God (Num 11:23). He is **omnipotent**, all powerful. Years later, Sennacherib's own sons assassinated him while he was worshiping his god (2 Kgs 19:37). Clearly his god wasn't so great. Where now is the boasting of Sennacherib and the Rabshakeh? It was silenced, just like all those who set themselves against God (Rom 14:11). But while God casts out the proud, He rescues humble people like Hezekiah (Matt 5:3). He saves all those who trust in Him.

ASK

1. What happened to the Assyrian army?
The angel of the LORD slaughtered 185,000 Assyrians in one night, and the rest went home.
2. What happened to Sennacherib, the king of Assyria?
He was assassinated by his own sons in the temple of his god.
3. What did this prove?
This proved that God alone is God, that He has power over all, and that He can always rescue those who trust in Him.

DISCUSS

1. How many people can fit into a large football stadium? Is this number more or less than the number of Assyrians the Angel of the LORD killed in one night?
2. Does God rescue every believer from the hands of his enemy (Heb 11:32–38)? Why is God not bound to do so?

NEXT WEEK

God punishes Judah

2 Kings 21:1–18; 24:1–25:30

