

Hezekiah's life, times and accomplishments

ANSWER KEY mark the words in red with UV pen on this 6 page document in clues packet.

Contributions for Worship

Hezekiah assigned the priests and Levites to offer burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, to minister, to give thanks and to sing praises at the gates of the Lord's dwelling. The king contributed from his own possessions for the offerings.

Hezekiah did what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God. In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered.

Hezekiah had very great wealth and honor, and he made treasuries for his silver and gold and for his precious stones, spices, shields and all kinds of valuables. He also made buildings to store the harvest of grain, new wine and olive oil; and he made stalls for various kinds of cattle, and pens for the flocks. He built villages and acquired great numbers of flocks and herds, for God had given him very great riches. He succeeded in everything he undertook.

Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem

After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, thinking to conquer them for himself.

When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he intended to wage war against Jerusalem, they gathered a large group of people who blocked all the springs and the stream that flowed through the land. "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find plenty of water?" they said.

Hezekiah worked hard repairing all the broken sections of the wall and building towers on it. He built another wall outside that one and reinforced the terraces of the City of David. He also made large numbers of weapons and shields. He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them before him in the square at the city gate and encouraged them with these words:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a **greater** power with us than with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles."

The people gained confidence from what Hezekiah said.

Sennacherib king of Assyria sent his officers to Jerusalem with this message for Hezekiah king of Judah and for all the people of Judah who were there: "On what are you basing your confidence, that you remain in Jerusalem under siege? When Hezekiah says, 'The Lord our God will save us from the hand of the king of Assyria,' he is misleading you, to let you die of hunger and thirst. Do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or the hand of my predecessors. How much less will your god deliver you from my hand!"

Sennacherib wrote letters ridiculing the Lord, the God of Israel and spoke about the God of Jerusalem as they did about the gods of the other peoples of the world—the work of human hands.

Hezekiah's Prayer and God's Answer

When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the temple of the Lord. Hezekiah prayed to the Lord:

"Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Give ear, Lord, and hear; open your eyes, Lord, and see; listen to all the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God.

Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, Lord, are the only God.

Isaiah sent a message **to** Hezekiah: "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, this is the word the Lord has spoken against him:

"Who is it you have ridiculed and blasphemed?

Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride?

Against the Holy One of Israel!

By your messengers you have ridiculed the Lord. But I know where you are and when you come and go and how you rage against me. Because you rage against me and because your insolence has reached my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will make you return by the way you came. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Therefore, this is what the Lord says concerning the king of Assyria:

"He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow here. He will not come before it with shield or build a siege ramp against it. I will defend this city and save it, for my sake and for the sake of David my servant!"

That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.

So the Lord saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib and from the hand of all others. He took care of them on every side. Many brought offerings to Jerusalem for the Lord and valuable gifts for Hezekiah king of Judah. From then on he was highly regarded by all the nations.

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his **wonderful** acts.