

Hezekiah and the Assyrian Threat Averted

The reforms of Hezekiah—the Great Passover; Jerusalem under Hezekiah; he rebels against Assyria; Isaiah's message; the Lord defeats the invasion of Sennacherib; Hezekiah's fall.

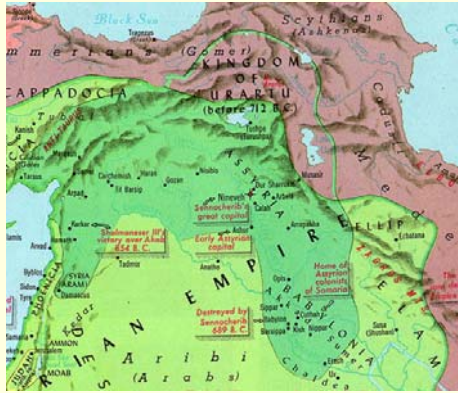
2 Kings 18–20; 2 Chronicles 29–32; Isaiah 36–39

The Reforms of Hezekiah—the Great Passover (2 Chronicles 29:1–31:21; cf. 2 Kings 18:1–12)

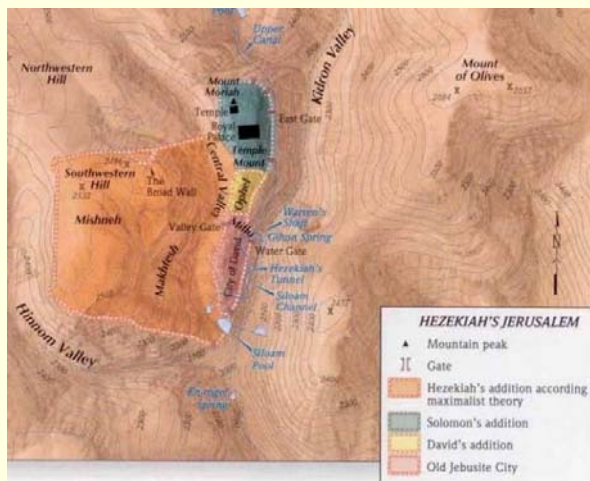
- Reign of Hezekiah (29:1–2)
 - His name means "The Lord has Strengthened"
- The Temple cleansed (29:3–19)
- Temple Worship Restored (29:20–36)
 - *Remember that all priestly matters—and especially the roles of the Levites—are of special concern to the Chronicler*
 - *Note also the emphasis on sacrifice and music*
- The Great Passover (30:1–27)
 - **Remnants of the northern tribes are invited and many attend**
- Pagan shrines (and irregular shrines of YHWH) are destroyed (31:1–10)
 - *It is only from this point that "high places" seem to be inappropriate*
- Reorganization of the priests and Levites (31:11–21)
 - *Some scholars place the origins of the P or "priestly" strand of the Torah to the period of Hezekiah*

Judah Alone

With Damascus and Israel destroyed, Judah and the remaining south Syrian states clung to precarious survival as vassal states to Assyria. Hezekiah, however, was planning to reassert the southern kingdom's full independence



Jerusalem under Hezekiah



At the time of Hezekiah, the fall of the northern kingdom led to a massive influx of refugees that more than doubled the size of Jerusalem. *Could this be when the families of Lehi, Laban, Sariah, and Ishmael moved south?*

Hezekiah's Tunnel Preparing for the Assyrian Siege

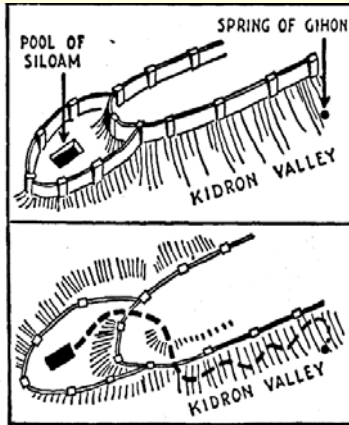
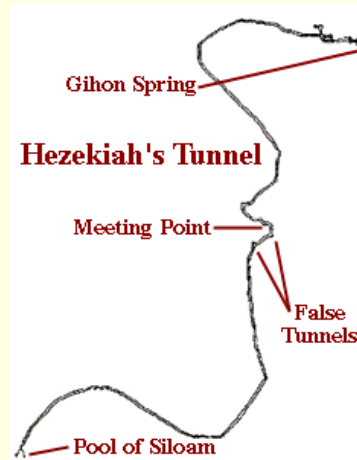


FIG. 52.—King Hezekiah's great Tunnel of Siloam in Jerusalem.

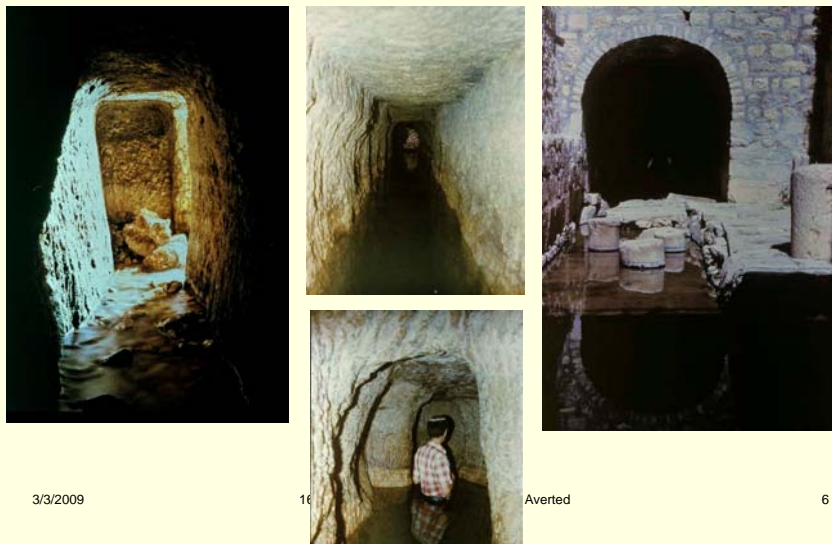


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Inside the Tunnel and at Its Exit at the Pool of Siloam



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Averted

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The Siloam Inscription

Chronicling the moment that Hezekiah's engineers met



... the tunnel ... and this is the story of the tunnel while ... the axes were against each other and while three cubits were left to cut? ... the voice of a man ... called to his counterpart, (for) there was ZADA in the rock, on the right ... and on the day of the tunnel (being finished) the stonecutters struck each man towards his counterpart, ax against ax and flowed water from the source to the pool for 1200 cubits. and 100? cubits was the height over the head of the stonecutters ...

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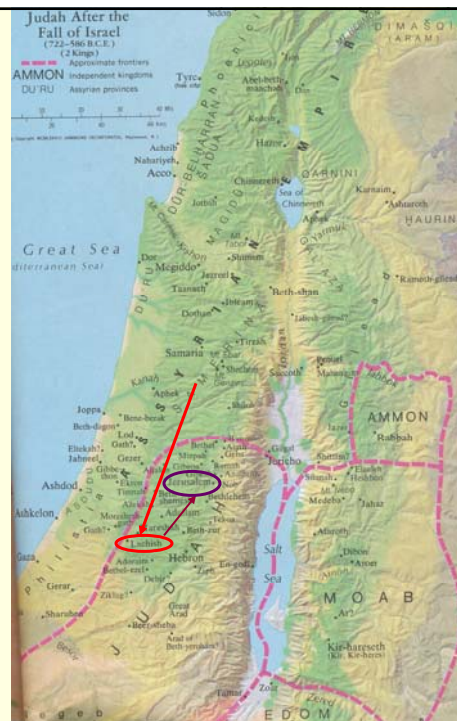
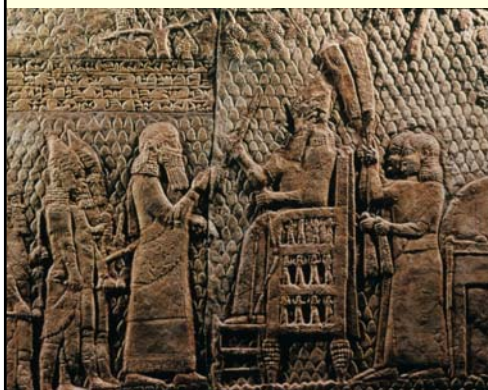
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The Assyrian Invasion

(2 Kings 18:13-19:37; cf. 2 Chronicles 32:1-23)

- **Sennacherib invades Judah,** taking all the walled cities and towns outside of Jerusalem (18:13-37)





The Siege of Lachish

The last fortified city of Judah outside of Jerusalem

Assyrian inscriptions and art chronicle the devastation of the towns and countryside of Judah. Assyrian annals claimed that Sennacherib shut Hezekiah up in Jerusalem "like a bird in a cage."

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Assyrian Savagery in War

Assyrian captives impaled. *Crucifixion was originally "piercing," and the practice originated this early with the Assyrians.*



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The Assyrian Invasion

(2 Kings 18:13–19:37; cf. 2 Chronicles 32:1–23)

- **Hezekiah consults Isaiah** (19:1–7)
- **Sennacherib's threat** (19:8–13)
- **Hezekiah's prayer** (19:14–19)
- **YHWH's Response through Isaiah** (19:20–35)
 - Poetic oracle (19:21b–28)
 - Prose oracle (19:29–35)
- **Sennacherib's defeat and death** (19:35–37)
- **Note Isaiah's so-called "Historical Appendix" in Isaiah 36–39**
 - Where did the information originate?
 - In Isaiah's records, later incorporated into DH
 - In DH and edited into Isaiah?
 - Unique addition: *Psalm of Hezekiah (Isaiah 38:9–20)*

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Hezekiah's Fall

(2 Kings 20:1–21; cf. 2 Chronicles 32:24–26)

- Hezekiah's illness and recovery (20:1–11)
- His foolishness before the Babylonians (20:12–19)
- His death (20:20–21)

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Hezekiah Remembered

- Hezekiah's Prosperity and Achievements (2 Chronicles 32:27–33)
 - “This same Hezekiah also stopped the upper watercourse of Gihon, and brought it straight down to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works. Howbeit in *the business* of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to enquire of the wonder that was *done* in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all *that was* in his heart. Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and his goodness, behold, they *are* written in the vision of Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, *and* in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.”