

22.4b Sennacherib (2 Kings 18:7, 13–37; 19:1–37; Isaiah 36:1–22; 37:1–38; 2 Chronicles 32:1–23)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud, and they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- (optional) A broken reed from a pond

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *to siege/besiege*: to surround a city with an army until the city surrenders (says, “I give up”); [Point out moveable towers and ramps in the pictures found below.]
- *fortified cities*: cities that have strong towers, strong walls, strong soldiers, and strong defensive weapons
- *to capture/captivity*: *To capture* is to catch or get control over something or someone. *Captivity* is like having an animal in a cage or someone in jail. When Israel went into captivity, they were exiled—taken to Assyria and controlled as slaves would be controlled.

Scripture: (ESV) 2 Chronicles 32:1–23 condenses this story, leaving out details found in 2 Kings 18 and 19.

2 Kings 18:7 And the Lord was with [Hezekiah]; wherever he went out, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him.

2 Chronicles 32:1 After these things and these acts of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah and encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them for himself. 2 And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem, 3 he planned with his officers and his mighty men to stop the water of the springs that were outside the city; and they helped him. 4 A great many people were gathered, and they stopped all the springs and the brook that flowed through the land, saying, “Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?” 5 He set to work resolutely and built up all the wall that was broken down and raised towers upon it, and outside it he built another wall, and he strengthened the Millo in the city of David. He also made weapons and shields in abundance. 6 And he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying, 7 “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. 8 With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

2 Kings 18:13 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. 14 And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, “I have done wrong; withdraw from me. Whatever you impose on me I will bear.” And the king of Assyria required of Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. 15 And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the Lord and in the treasuries of the king’s house. 16 At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the Lord and from the doorposts that Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid and gave it to the king of Assyria. 17 And the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rab-saris, and the Rabshakeh with a great army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they arrived, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is on the highway to the Washer’s Field. 18 And when they called for the king, there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder.

19 And the Rabshakeh said to them, “Say to Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours? 20 Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom

do you now trust, that you have rebelled against me? 21 Behold, you are trusting now in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him. 22 But if you say to me, We trust in the Lord our God, is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem? 23 Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them. 24 How then can you repulse a single captain among the least of my master's servants, when you trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? 25 Moreover, is it without the Lord that I have come up against this place to destroy it? The Lord said to me, Go up against this land, and destroy it.”

26 Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and Shebnah, and Joah, said to the Rabshakeh, “Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it. Do not speak to us in the language of Judah within the hearing of the people who are on the wall.” 27 But the Rabshakeh said to them, “Has my master sent me to speak these words to your master and to you, and not to the men sitting on the wall, who are doomed with you to eat their own dung and to drink their own urine?”

28 Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah: “Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria! 29 Thus says the king: ‘Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you out of my hand. 30 Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord by saying, The Lord will surely deliver us, and this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.’ 31 Do not listen to Hezekiah, for thus says the king of Assyria: ‘Make your peace with me and come out to me. Then each one of you will eat of his own vine, and each one of his own fig tree, and each one of you will drink the water of his own cistern, 32 until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey, that you may live, and not die. And do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you by saying, “The Lord will deliver us.” 33 Has any of the gods of the nations ever delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? 34 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? 35 Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?’”

36 But the people were silent and answered him not a word, for the king's command was, “Do not answer him.” 37 Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn and told him the words of the Rabshakeh.

19:1 As soon as King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of the Lord. 2 And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz. 3 They said to him, “Thus says Hezekiah, This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. 4 It may be that the Lord your God heard all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the Lord your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.”

5 When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, 6 Isaiah said to them, “Say to your master, ‘Thus says the Lord: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me. 7 Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land, and I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.’”

8 The Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he heard that the king had left Lachish. 9 Now the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Cush, “Behold, he has set out to fight against you.” So he sent messengers again to Hezekiah, saying, 10 “Thus shall you speak to Hezekiah king of Judah: ‘Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. 11 Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, devoting them to destruction. And shall you be delivered? 12 Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations that my fathers destroyed, Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? 13 Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, the king of Hena, or the king of Ivvah?’”

14 Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord and spread it before the Lord. 15 And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord and said: "O Lord, the 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, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God. 17 Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands 18 and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed. 19 So now, O Lord our God, save us, please, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Lord, are God alone."

20 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Your prayer to me about Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard. 21 This is the word that the Lord has spoken concerning him: . . . 22 "Whom have you mocked and reviled? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes to the heights? Against the Holy One of Israel! 23 By your messengers you have mocked the Lord, and you have said, 'With my many chariots I have gone up the heights of the mountains, to the far recesses of Lebanon. . . .'

25 [God said,] "Have you not heard that I determined it long ago? I planned from days of old what now I bring to pass, that you should turn fortified cities into heaps of ruins, 26 while their inhabitants, shorn of strength, are dismayed and confounded. . . . 27 "But I know your sitting down and your going out and coming in, and your raging against me. 28 Because you have raged against me and your complacency has come into my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will turn you back on the way by which you came."

29 "And this shall be the sign for you [Hezekiah]: this year eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs of the same. Then in the third year sow and reap and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. 30 And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward. 31 For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the Lord will do this.

32 "Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there, or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it. 33 By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the Lord. 34 For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David."

35 And that night the angel of the Lord went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. 36 Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went home and lived at Nineveh. 37 And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him down with the sword and escaped into the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

30 "And this shall be the sign for you: this year you shall eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs from that. Then in the third year sow and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. 31 And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward. 32 For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

33 "Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it. 34 By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the Lord. 35 For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David."

36 And the angel of the Lord went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. 2 Chronicles 32:21 And the Lord sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he came into the house of his god, some of his own sons struck him down there with the sword. 22 So the Lord saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all his enemies, and he provided for them on every side. 23 And many brought gifts to the Lord to Jerusalem and precious things to

Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations from that time onward.

Introduction/Review:

King Hezekiah of Judah [locate] had ruled six years when the king of Assyria [locate] captured Israel and took the people captive and to exile in Assyria. The Assyrians had threatened Judah as well, but King Hezekiah had refused to send them any money or to serve the Assyrian king.

Story:

After another eight years had passed, Assyria returned to the land with a new king, named Sennacherib, who came up against Judah's fortified cities, besieged them, and took them.

Preparing for war

Hezekiah knew it would be only a matter of time before Sennacherib would come against Jerusalem as well. He was not about to make it easy for the enemy to capture his capital, so he planned with his officers and mighty men to stop the water of the springs that were outside the city. They stopped all the springs and the brook by diverting the water through a tunnel they made under part of the city of Jerusalem. Men chopped their way through the rock at opposite ends of the tunnel and met in the middle of this S-shaped channel. [Show S-shaped drawing of the tunnel.] The tunnel, called Hezekiah's Tunnel, supplied water to the people of Jerusalem but cut off water supplies to the enemy.¹ [Show modern-day picture of Hezekiah's tunnel.]

Hezekiah made more preparations for war—building up a broken part of Jerusalem's wall, making towers on the wall, making many weapons and shields, organizing the army, and encouraging. "Be strong and of good courage," he exhorted his people. "Do not be afraid before the king of Assyria and his huge army, for there is one greater with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles." With these encouraging words, the people gained confidence.

Sending tribute

However, while Hezekiah encouraged his people, he himself was ready to send money to keep Sennacherib from coming to Jerusalem. "I have done wrong," he wrote to Sennacherib. "Whatever you want me to pay, I will pay."

✓"Okay," said Sennacherib. "You must pay 300 talents of silver (about \$50,000) and 30 talents of gold (about \$800,000, enough for a big, expensive house today). Well, Hezekiah didn't have that much silver and gold. He gathered all he could find in the Temple storehouses and in the king's treasuries, but it wasn't enough. Where could he get more gold? Aha! Hadn't he repaired the doors of the Temple and put gold on them? He would just have to strip that gold off those doors and give it to the king of Assyria, and he did.

Speaking to Jerusalem

Sennacherib was busy besieging a city named Lachish [locate; pronounced LAY kish]. Instead of going to Jerusalem himself, he sent three of his generals with a great army. One of the generals was a loud-mouthed spokesman. He is called Rabshakeh [pronounced RăB shă keh]. Three of Hezekiah's men went out to meet Rabshakeh. ✓Perhaps he was across the valley from them; perhaps they met face to face. Wherever they met, we know the men of the city could hear and understand the whole conversation: The Rabshakeh spoke in the language of the people of Judah, and he wasn't quiet about it.

"Tell Hezekiah, the great king, the king of Assyria, says, 'What are you relying on? You are relying on Egypt, a broken reed that pierces the hand of a man who leans on it.'"

Now that wasn't true. *Hoshea*, king of Israel, had relied on Egypt but not Hezekiah, king of Judah. However, Hezekiah had *considered* getting help from Egypt.

Rabshakeh continued. "Hezekiah is misleading you if he says, 'The Lord our God will deliver us from Assyria.' Hasn't Hezekiah removed the high places and altars of your God?"

Again, Rabshakeh had it wrong. Hezekiah had removed the high places and altars of the *false* gods, not of the true God.

Rabshakeh had a lot more to say. Listen to old Big-Mouth: “If I would give you 2000 horses, you probably wouldn’t be able to find enough men to ride them all. How, then, do you expect to push away even the very least of my master’s servants. Also, the Lord Himself told me to go up against this land and destroy it.”

All this menacing talk was getting to be ✓embarrassing and frightening. Hezekiah’s men asked Rabshakeh, “Please speak to us in your own language. We understand it. Do not speak to us in the language of Judah so that the men on the wall can hear you.”

“Do you think my master sent me to speak to you only and not to the people listening on the wall?” Then Rabshakeh stood up and started shouting loudly so everyone could hear in their language: [Shout.] “Listen to the word of the great king of Assyria! ‘Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you out of my hand. The king of Assyria says, “Make peace with me and you can stay at home until we take you away to a land that is just like your own land.” There you will live and not die. Do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you by saying, ‘The Lord will deliver us.’ We have conquered many nations. Were the gods of those nations able to deliver them from us? Neither will your God deliver you.”

As he and his army besieged Jerusalem, Rabshakeh said much more and sent letters and continued talking against the Lord God and against Hezekiah. He continued to call out loudly in the language of Judah to frighten the people. He spoke of the true God as if He were one of the idols made by men’s hands.

Hearing from Isaiah

✓Even though they may have wanted to, the men of Jerusalem did not answer Rabshakeh, for King Hezekiah had commanded them not to answer. Nevertheless, Rabshakeh’s words did shake up Hezekiah’s servants. When they went to tell Hezekiah what Rabshakeh was saying, they tore their clothes. After Hezekiah heard the news he, too, tore his royal clothes, dressed in sackcloth, and went to the Temple to pray.

Meanwhile, two servants and some priests, dressed in sackcloth, had been sent by Hezekiah to Isaiah the prophet. “Hezekiah says,” they began, “this is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace. We have no strength. Maybe the Lord your God heard all the words of the Rabshakeh, who mocked the living God. Pray for the few people who are left—the remnant.”

But Isaiah already had a message of hope from the Lord. He said, “Say to your master, ‘Thus says the Lord: Do not be afraid because of the words you heard when the king of Assyria mocked me. I will cause him to hear a rumor that will cause him to return to his own land, where he will fall by the sword.’”

Students, what did Isaiah predict? [That Sennacherib would return to Assyria and die by the sword there.]

Hearing from Sennacherib

Well, ✓perhaps to get fresh orders or to persuade Sennacherib to come to Jerusalem, Rabshakeh left Jerusalem and went to his king at another town in Judah where Sennacherib was again laying siege. Instead of coming to Jerusalem, however, Sennacherib sent messengers to Hezekiah with a letter containing the same propaganda: “Do not let your God deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done in all the lands, destroying them totally. Do you think you will be saved? Have any of the gods of the nations saved them?”

Praying to God

Oh, this was a scary time for Hezekiah! When he received this letter, he again went to the Temple and spread the letter out before the Lord. Isaiah joined him, and together they prayed, “O Lord God of Israel, who sits on a throne above angels. You alone are the God of all the kingdoms of the earth. You made heaven and earth. Listen, O Lord, and hear; open Your eyes, and see. Hear the words of Sennacherib which he has sent to mock the living God. It is true that the kings of Assyria have wasted all the nations and have cast their gods into the fire. But they were not gods but merely the work of men’s hands—wood and stone. O

Lord our God, save us from Sennacherib so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone are the true God.”

Answering Sennacherib

Then Isaiah told Hezekiah, “Because you have prayed to God, this is what He says about Sennacherib: ‘You think you are so great, destroying all these nations? Don’t you know that I, the true God, determined your actions long ago? I planned from days of old what I am now bringing to pass. I know when you sit down, when you go out, and when you come in. Your arrogance has come to my ears. I will put my hook in your nose [Teacher, put two of your fingers, facing out, in your nose] and my bit in your mouth, and I will turn you back the way you came.’”

Reassuring Hezekiah

“Now about Sennacherib,” continued Isaiah with his word from God. “He shall not come into this city or even shoot an arrow here. He won’t come with a shield or build up a siege ramp. He will go back to his country and not come here. I, the Lord, will defend this city to save it for My own sake and for the sake of my servant David.”

What a wonderful promise of God’s care for His people, just as He cares for His people today!

Destroying Assyria and Sennacherib

That very night, as the Assyrians camped around Jerusalem, the Lord sent an angel who destroyed all of them—warriors, commanders, and the officers of the Assyrians. Exactly how the angel did it we don’t know—✓whether it was by sickness or by the sword—but the Bible states that in the morning the *whole Assyrian camp* was dead—185,000 soldiers (18.5 times Lamar, Colorado’s population) were lifeless.

When Sennacherib heard about the mass slaughter of his soldiers, ✓he was totally humiliated! Hearing a rumor (as Isaiah had said) that the Ethiopians were attacking Assyria, he went back home (as Isaiah had said) to Nineveh [locate]. One day, as he was worshiping his idol in its temple, two of his sons slew him ✓with a sword (as Isaiah had said), right there in the temple of his god—the god who, he had bragged, had defeated the nations. His god was not strong enough to help even one man—himself! The one true God had predetermined and directed every event down to the destruction of Sennacherib himself.

This is how the Lord saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem. After that, God gave them rest on every side. Many people brought gifts to Jerusalem for the Lord and for Hezekiah so that he became famous among all the nations around him.

unnel still exists 2700 years later and is considered to be an engineering wonder. It still carries water, but people are allowed to walk through it. It’s average height is about sixteen feet, but grown people have to duck their heads when the ceiling gets as low as 4 feet 9 inches.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:

As mentioned before, Isaiah, the prophet during Hezekiah’s reign, predicted many things about Jesus Christ. Most notable among these prophecies is a section, Isaiah 53:3–10ff, regarding Jesus’ crucifixion. Picture in your mind Jesus on the cross as I read Isaiah’s prophecy:

“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. . . . Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the

slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. . . . [H]e was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.”

- Pray about everything.
- Trust the Lord; He is able to do anything!
- God is kind and loving to His people.

Activities:

- Play dough: wall; shields; swords; letter
- Snack: Sugar cookies cut out in the shape of sheep

Or prepare one of the snacks that looks like sheep at [Ten Foods That Look Like Sheep for Your Farmyard Party \(theverybesttop10.com\)](http://theverybesttop10.com).


- Read Ethel Barrett’s version of this story in her book, *Which Way to Nineveh?*
- Have older students read Lord Byron’s classic poem, “The Destruction of Sennacherib,” found below.
- Discuss with older students what we have pointed out in previous stories—God sent enemies against evil kings. But what about Hezekiah, who was a good king? Why did God send the enemy against Jerusalem?

(1) Bad things don’t always happen for punishment; sometimes they are tests.

(2) The Assyrians did not even mount siege towers or ramps or shoot an arrow against Jerusalem in their siege.

(3) No people were lost; whereas, the Assyrians had destroyed cities and killed *Israel’s* men who were under evil kings.

(4) The Assyrians’ death, thus, Jerusalem’s deliverance, shows what mighty acts God will perform on behalf of those who trust and worship Him.

- Play Bob Devine’s 6.5-minute rendition of this story. Double click the icon. (A rhythmic loud/soft distortion from 1:43 to 4:50 cuts off parts of words, but it isn’t *too* bad.)  Sennacherib.mp3
- Review questions: (Game: Print on card stock and cut out the numbers 1, 8, 5, 0, 0, 0 that are found at the end of this lesson. A student who answers a question correctly may place a number in a pocket chart. The final number will be 185,000 for the Assyrians who died outside Jerusalem.)
 1. What did Hezekiah do to keep the Assyrians from getting water? [Dug a tunnel under Jerusalem for the water to come to the city but not be available for the enemy.]
 2. What was the name of the king of Assyria? [Sennacherib.]
 3. What did the Rabshakeh do to frighten the men on the wall of Jerusalem? [Shouted to them in their own language.]
 4. Isaiah comforted Hezekiah by telling him something would happen to Sennacherib. What was it? [He would hear a rumor causing him to return to his country; there he would be slain by a sword.]
 5. What did Hezekiah do when he received a letter from Sennacherib? [Spread the letter before the Lord in the Temple and prayed to God.]
 6. What happened to the 185,000 Assyrian soldiers camped near Jerusalem? [All died in one night.]

Memory Verses:

- Psalm 139:1–18, 23, 24 (NKJV) A very nice song book with black-and-white visuals (I water colored mine) and a CD is available as a learning tool at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](http://thywordcreations.com). Learning this psalm may take six months or more. Some teachers think saying/singing the whole psalm every week is a good way to learn it. However, this Psalm 139 song book breaks the passage after verse 13; therefore, a suggestion is to work on verses 1–13 for thirteen weeks and then the rest of the psalm for an

additional eight weeks or more. Take one or two lessons to say/sing the whole psalm.

¹O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

³You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

⁵You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶*Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

⁷Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

⁹*If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;

¹²Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

¹³For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

¹⁷How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸*If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

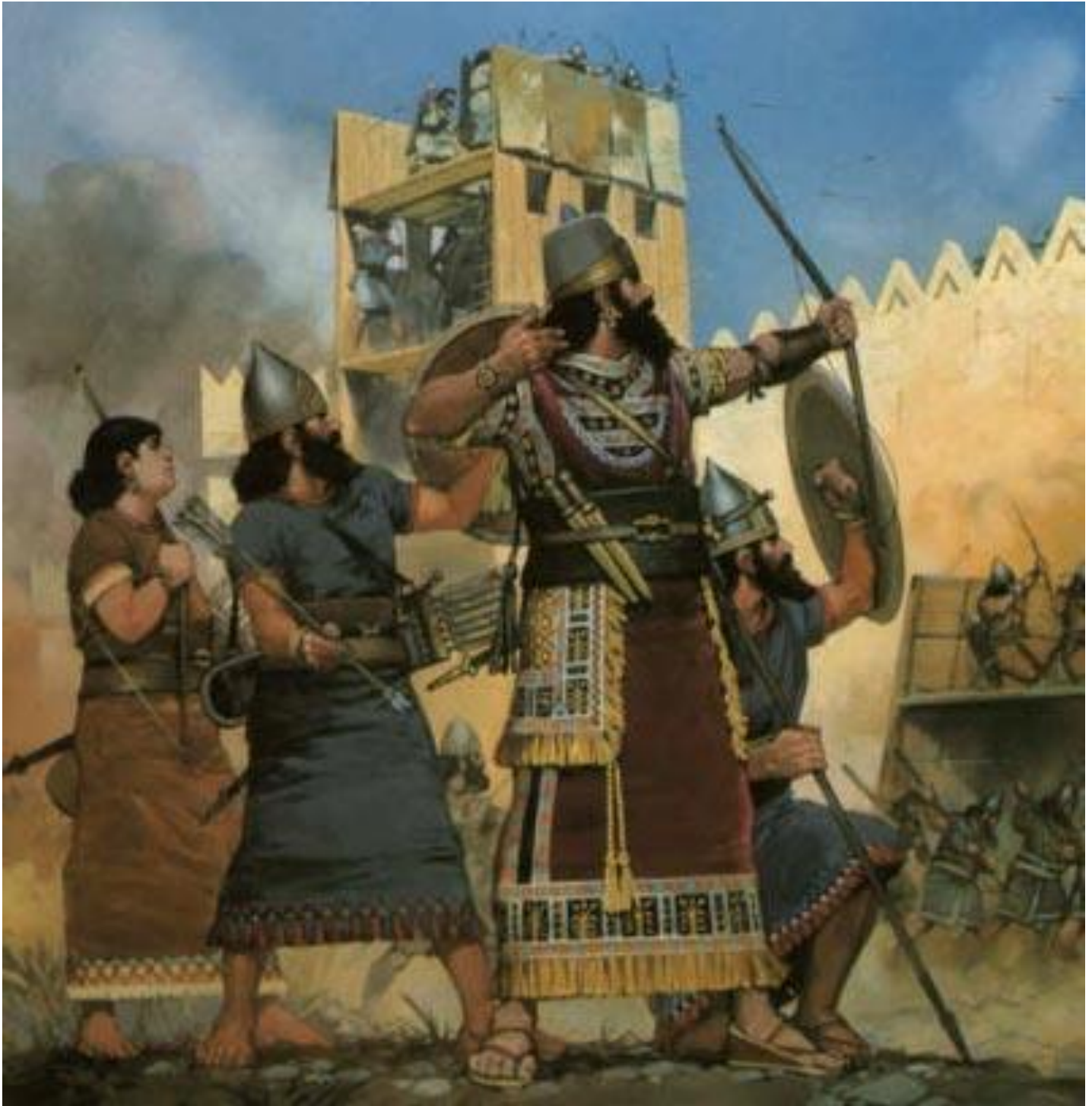
²⁴And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- Alternative verse: Jesus said unto him, "You shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37).

Handwork:

- Print and color the line drawing found below of Hezekiah with Sennacherib's letter or of the soldiers near the wall.

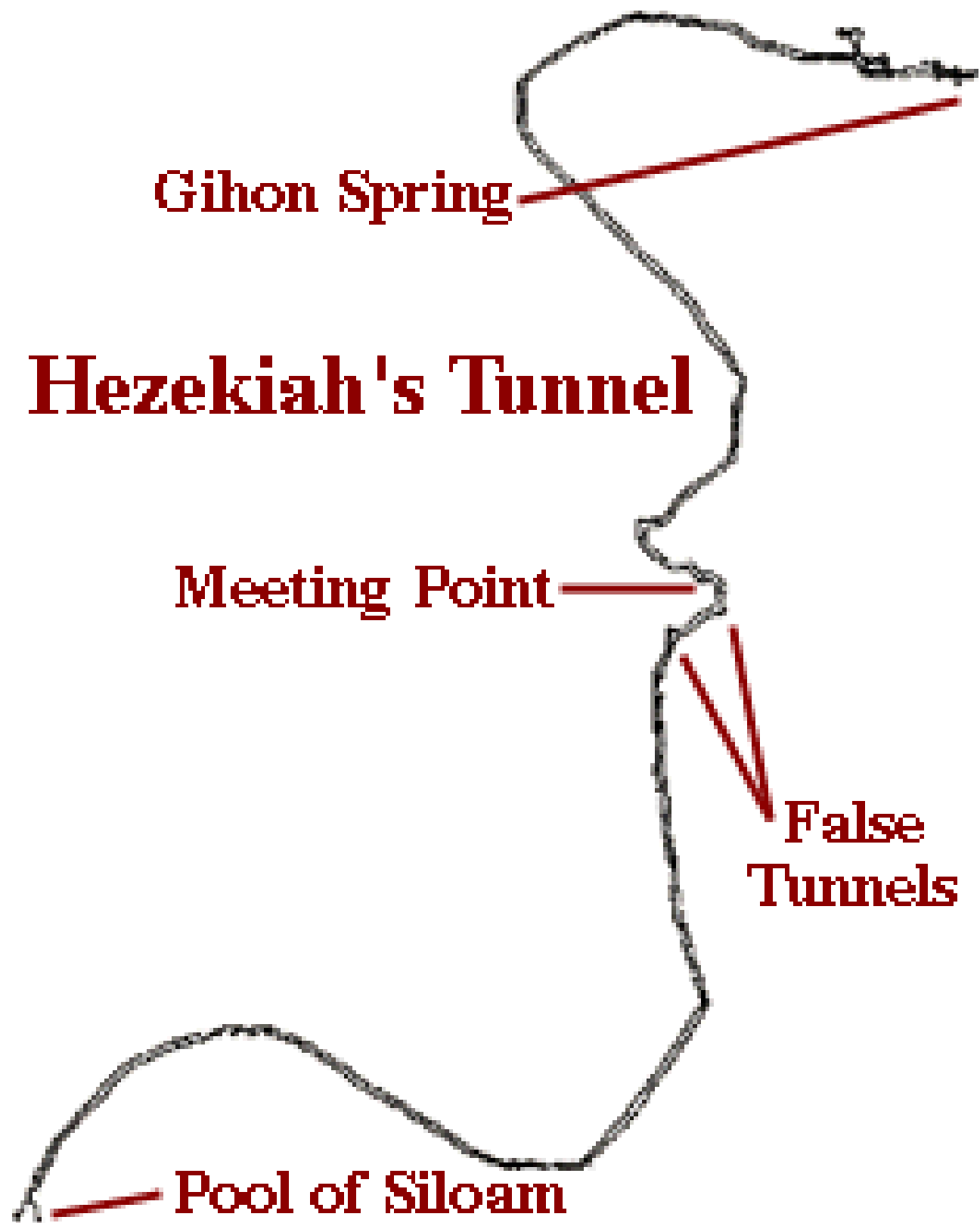
*to siege/besiege
fortified cities
to capture/captivity*

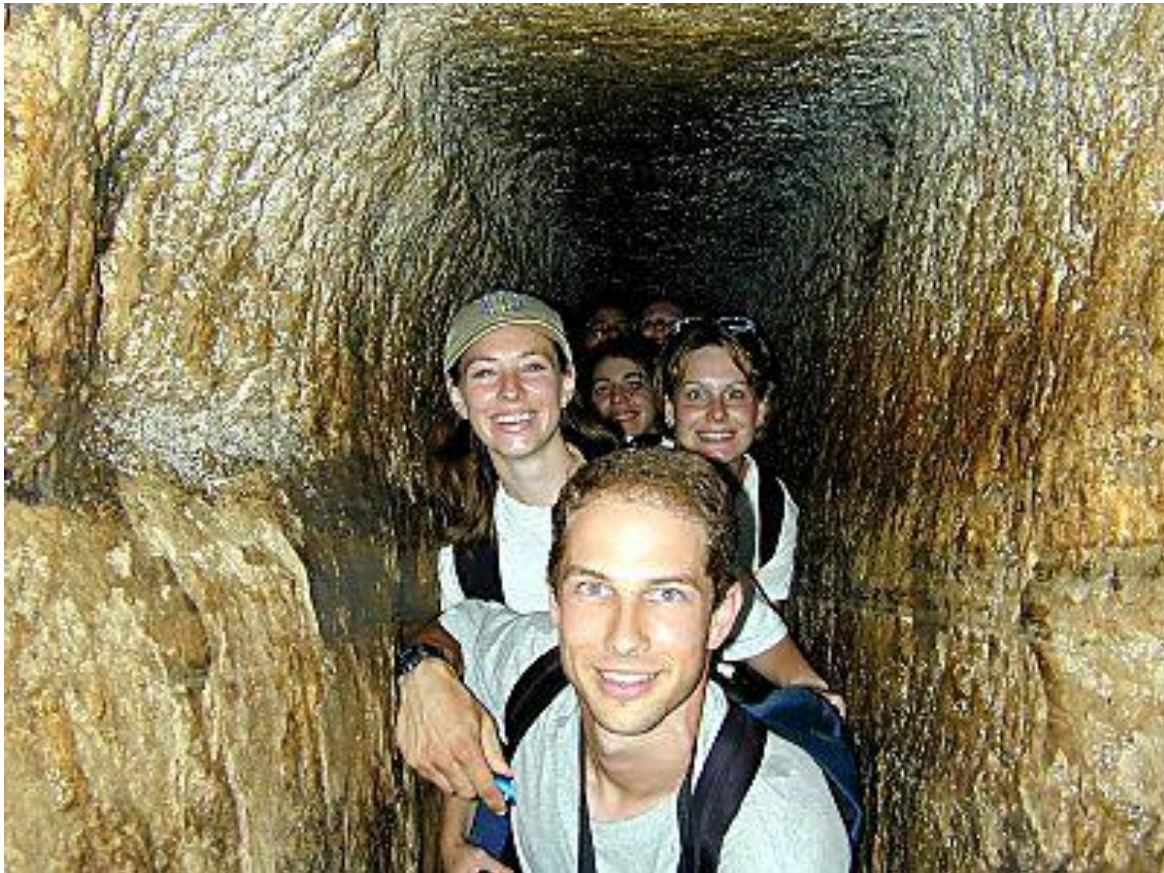


This picture shows a siege tower. Siege towers were not erected against Jerusalem in this story. (unknown source)



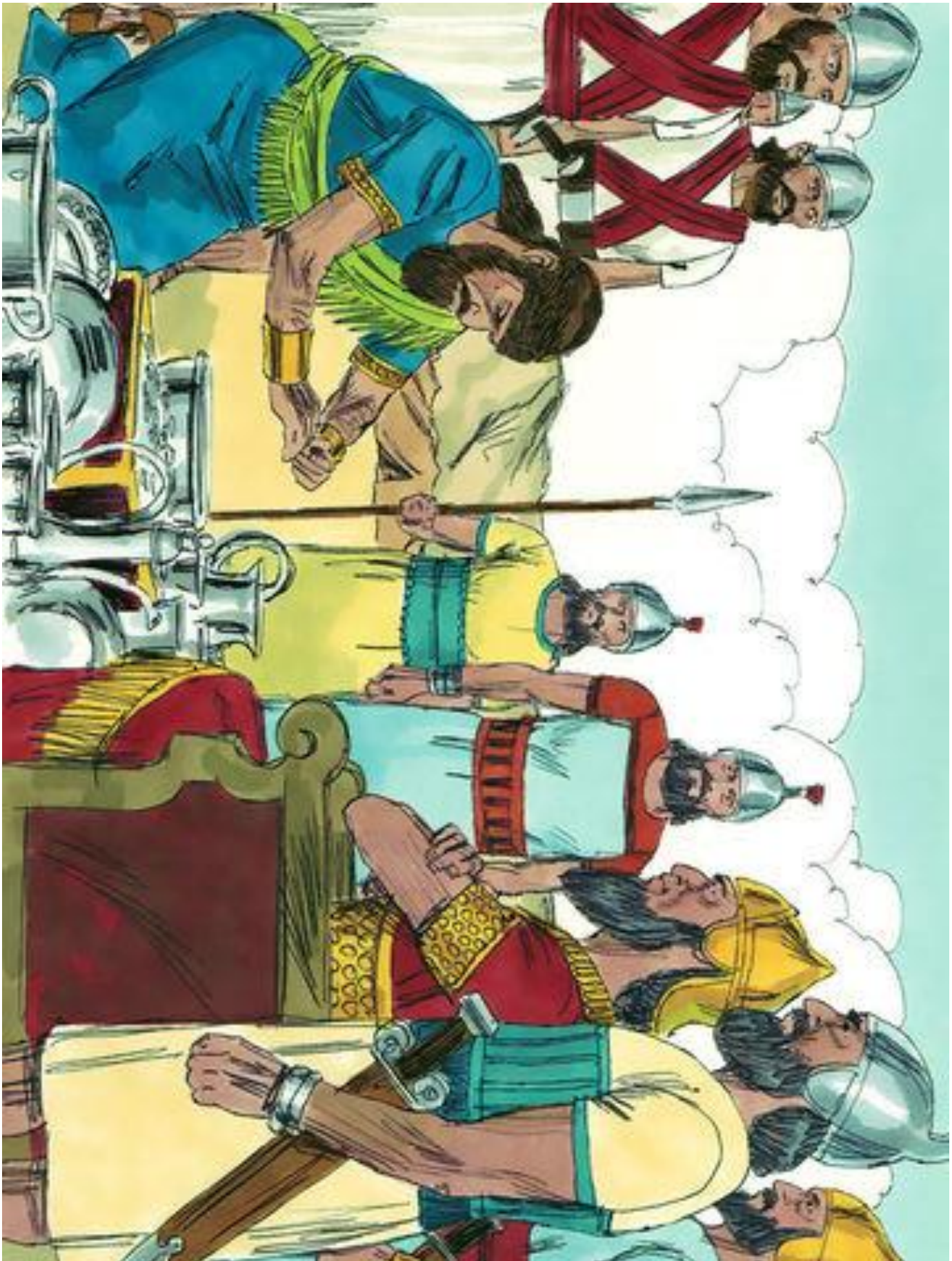
[Lock, Stock, and History — The Siege of Masada In 66 AD a large Jewish... \(tumblr.com\)](#)





Hezekiah's Tunnel (unknown source)





[FreeBibleimages :: King Hezekiah and the Assyrian invasion :: King Hezekiah turns people back to God and prays for deliverance when the Assyrians invade \(2 Kings 18-19, 2 Chronicles 29 - 32:23, Isaiah 36 - 37\)](#)

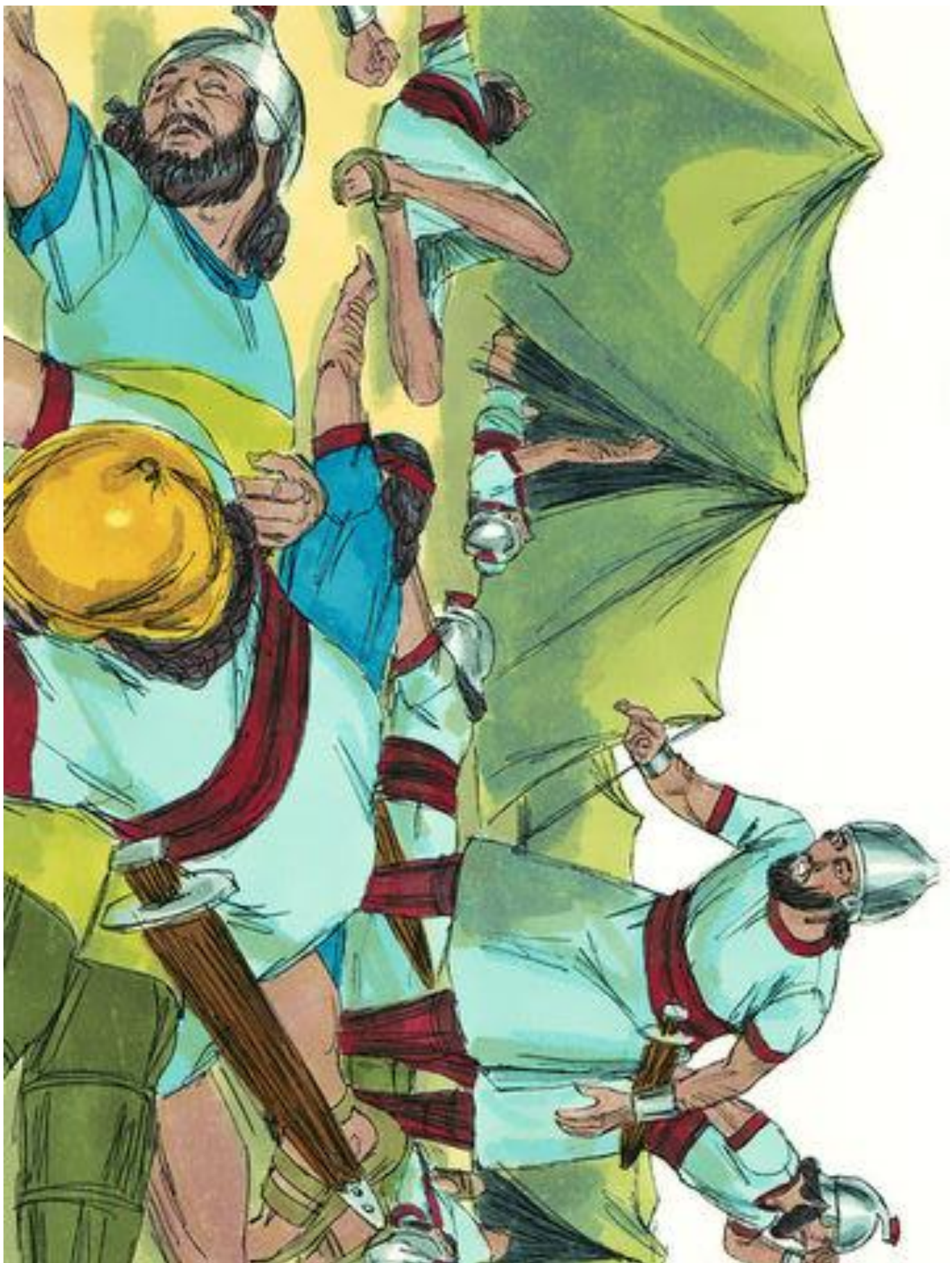


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"Hezekiah . . . spread it before the Lord."—*Isa. xxxvii. 14.*

"Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed. So now, O Lord our God, save us, please, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Lord, are God alone" (2 Kings 18:17-19).



This is the word that the Lord has spoken concerning him: . . . “Whom have you mocked and reviled? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes to the heights? Against the Holy One of Israel!”
(2 Kings 19:21, 22).

The Destruction of Sennacherib
by George Gordon, Lord Byron

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.
Like the leaves of the forest when Summer is green,
That host with their banners at sunset were seen:
Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath blown,
That host on the morrow lay withered and strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast,
And breathed in the face of the foe as he pass'd,
And the eyes of the sleepers wax'd deadly and chill,
And their hearts but once heaved, and for ever grew still!
And there lay the steed with his nostril all wide,
But through it there roll'd not the breath of his pride;
And the foam of his gasping lay white on the turf,
And cold as the spray of the rock-beating surf.

And there lay the rider distorted and pale,
With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his mail:
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,
The lances unlifted, the trumpets unblown.
And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail,
And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal;
And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword,
Hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord!

