

Handout: 2 Kings Lesson 7

- 930 BC: -Solomon dies, and the kingdom is divided into two states: the Northern Kingdom of Israel (10 tribes) and the Southern Kingdom of Judah (2 tribes).
- 732 BC: -Assyrian King Tiglath-Pileser III conquers Galilee and exiles the people into Assyrian lands to the east.
- 722 BC: -Assyrian King Shalmaneser V dies while besieging Israel's capital city, Samaria. His successor, Sargon II, conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel and deported the population into Assyrian lands north of the Euphrates. Five groups of foreign peoples are brought in to populate the Assyrian province of Samaria. They are the ancestors of the Samaritans.
- 705 BC: -King Sargon II dies, and Sennacherib ascends the throne of Assyria. There was widespread revolt among the Assyrian provinces. King Hezekiah of Judah revolts and prepares for an Assyrian attack by building a water system for Jerusalem, extending the city walls, and fortifying other Judean cities.
- 701 BC: -Sennacherib attacks Judah. Forty-six cities, including Lachish, are conquered, and the people are exiled. Jerusalem is spared by divine intervention, and the Assyrians retreat.
- 687 BC: -Death of King Hezekiah.
- 681 BC: -Assassination of King Sennacherib.

Hezekiah's reforms:

1. He abolished the high places where illicit worship had taken place.
2. He broke the pillars and sacred poles associated with pagan worship.
3. He destroyed the bronze serpent from the time of Moses that the people had come to misuse as an object of worship.

The Assyrian minister's three examples of Hezekiah's foolishness:

1. It is folly to rely on the weak Egyptian Pharaoh.
2. It is foolish to rely on Yahweh, who has given Assyrian permission to lay waste to Judea.
3. It is misplaced confidence to rely on the Judahite military force.

His arguments for the people of Jerusalem to surrender:

1. King Hezekiah and Yahweh, your God, are as powerless and impotent as the king and the gods of the Northern Kingdom and incapable of saving you.
2. If they surrender, they can stay on their own property until it is time for them to go into exile.
3. They will be exiled into a land that is a virtual paradise.

The three prophecies in Isaiah's poem in 20:21-34:

1. God will send the Assyrian king back to his own lands (verse 28, 33b).
2. The remnant of Judah will survive, and in the third year, life will return to normal (verses 29-31).
3. Jerusalem will not be attacked because of God's covenant with David (verses 32-34).

In 2 Kings 19:9, King Tirhakah of Cush came to the aid of King Hezekiah when he was threatened by King Sennacherib of Assyria, who had laid siege to Jerusalem in 701 BC. Many names throughout history have identified the land of Cush. The Egyptians knew it as Cush, the Greeks and Romans as Aethiopia (or Ethiopia, but not to be confused with the modern nation located on the Horn of Africa), and the medieval Arabs called it Nubia.

Cush is mentioned about 54 times in the Old Testament, especially in the historical books of Kings and Chronicles. It is also referred to by the prophets, including Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Nahum, who wrote about Cush or the Cushites. The nation of Cush played a role in the history of Canaan, Egypt, and the ancient Near East as a whole.

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