

## *How a City without a Prayer Survived* **II Kings 18:13-19:37**

### **Crisis—God’s people and God under attack (18:1-37, 19:8-13)**

- ❖ Hezekiah had refused to pay tribute as his dad had (16:7-9), unwisely relying on Egypt (21); and his “late payment” brought a stiff penalty!
- ❖ This invasion was predicted 30+ yrs. ago (Isa. 8:7,8)—note irony of 18:17b and Isa. 7:3 = same spot Ahaz blew off God for Assyrian help!
- ❖ Hezekiah prepared Jerusalem, including a tunnel, II Chron. 32:1-5,30,

#### **Speeches by Assyrians:**

- #1: *Don’t trust in Egypt; you’re weak; your God told me to destroy you!*
  - #2: *Don’t trust in Hezekiah; no gods delivered other kingdoms!*
  - #3: *Don’t trust in Yahweh; your God can’t deliver you from destruction!*
- Q: What should these Assyrian speeches remind us of? I Sam. 17, Ps. 2

### **Response of faith—Prayer for help and a prophecy (19:1-7, 14-34)**

- ❖ Unlike his dad, Hezekiah will humbly (sackcloth) turn to the LORD.
- ❖ Hezekiah appeals for God to react to the arrogant Assyrian reproach.

### **Climax—an enemy destroyed and its arrogant king doomed (19:35-37)**

- ❖ The Assyrians are slain (c/c with Herodotus and Sennacherib’s Prism).
- ❖ Unlike Hezekiah, Sennacherib’s temple offers no aid, II Chron. 32:21.



Don’t miss the important archeological findings that further validate the events of this story!

What does this ordeal for Hezekiah and Judah suggest concerning how we should respond in a crisis situation?