

Questions for Younger Scholars

Who was Hezekiah? *One of the kings of Judah.* Who was Sennacherib? *King of Assyria.* What did this heathen king wish to do? *Take Jerusalem and Judah for his own.* What kind of a man was Hezekiah? *What message did Sennacherib's servants bring to him? What did he do? Who did the same thing? Did God*

hear their prayers? What promise did he make? Why did the Assyrian king feel sure of victory? Whom did the Lord send into his camp that night? What did he see when the morning came? How many lay dead? What did Sennacherib then do? Did he ever come back? No, he was slain by his sons.

Library References

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SERMONS ON THE LESSON

Smith, G. A., *Isaiah*, vol. i, p. 304, *Expositor's Bible*, verse 10.

The Lesson Analysis

I. *The Attitude of Sennacherib and His Servants (verses 9-19).*

1. The king of Assyria. (a) Head of the greatest military and commercial power of his time. (b) Arbitrarily assumed sovereignty over all Syria. (c) He had besieged Tyre, had destroyed Samaria, and was now invading Judah. (d) He conquered wherever he came. (e) Only two great fortresses of Judah remained uncaptured, Lachish and Jerusalem, and Sennacherib was besieging the one when he sent messengers to demand the surrender of the other. 2. His message was (a) addressed to Hezekiah, but to the rank and file, and (b) who were suffering frightfully from famine and thirst; and especially (c) to the unspiritual Jews who disliked Hezekiah because he had forcibly prevented the worship of Jehovah in high places. Sennacherib (d) based his argument on the feebleness of the gods of other lands to protect them against Assyrian power; and (e) assumed that Jehovah was no greater than other gods. (f) His letters were blasphemous against Jehovah. (g) To damage Hezekiah as

much as possible his messengers talked in Hebrew so that all might understand; and (h) appealed to the disloyal "high-place party" within the walls.

II. *The Attitude of Hezekiah and Isaiah (verse 20).*

(a) Hezekiah the king was responsible for the kingdom. (b) Isaiah the prophet was responsible for God's cause. (c) To these two men the followers of Jehovah in this terrible emergency naturally turned for support and direction. (d) And these two men, as their habit was, turned to God in prayer.

III. *The Attitude of God (verses 21-23).*

(a) God answered by deeds even more directly than by words. (b) An angel (possibly a pestilence) (c) ruined the Assyrian army, and (d) compelled a humiliating retreat into Assyria, where (e) the king was murdered by his sons. Besides thus defending Jerusalem from the Assyrians (f) Jehovah greatly magnified Hezekiah and his kingdom in the sight of all nations.

The Lesson Word Studies

NOTE.—These Word Studies for this lesson are based on the text of the Revised Version.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.—The Old Testament lessons which begin with this month, and which will be continued throughout the remainder of this year, take up again the thread of Jewish history at the point at which the last Old Testament lessons for 1904 dropped the study. Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom, had fallen in the year 722 B.C., just after Sargon, general of the Assyrian army, had ascended the