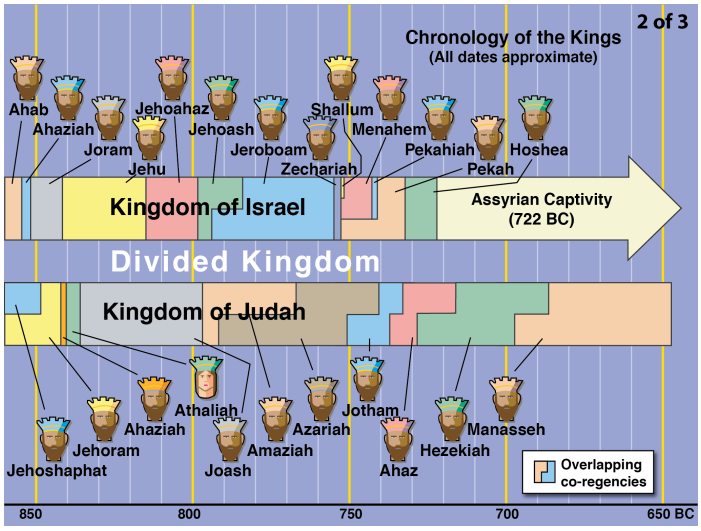


The northern kingdom of Israel had fallen to Assyria in 722 B.C. The "fourteenth year of King Hezekiah" (36:1) was 701 B.C. and Sennacherib, who reigned Assyria from 705-681 B.C., was coming up against all the fortified cities of Judah, including Jerusalem. But who would Hezekiah and the people of Judah trust as life became more and more unstable?





Key passages:

- 36:1-22: how would you summarize the taunts of Sennacherib's high-ranking military officer, the Rabshakeh? Think about the kings of Israel and many of the kings of Judah who had reigned before Hezekiah. How might it have been very tempting for Hezekiah to respond?

- 37:1-20: what stands out to you about the way Hezekiah handled this very stressful situation?

- 37:21-35: what is the LORD, the God of Israel, communicating through Isaiah?

- 38:1-22: what do we learn about Hezekiah in this chapter? And what about the LORD? What do we learn about him?

- 39:1-8: what is going on in this chapter? What further impression does this make on you about Hezekiah?

The takeaways:

- As those who "should remember the predictions of the holy prophets" (2 Pet 3:2), what should we take away from this section of Isaiah's prophecy?