

THE EPIC OF EDEN: ISAIAH

Session 6 Video Notes – Hezekiah and the “Poster Child” of Biblical Archaeology

1. Hezekiah the (Almost) Faithful King
 - a. Hezekiah’s role as Ahaz’s foil
 - b. The “Bookends” of First Isaiah
2. Hezekiah, King of Israel versus Sennacherib, King of Neo-Assyria
 - a. The “Poster Child” of biblical archaeology
 - i. Three biblical accounts: 2 Kings 18-19; Isaiah 36-39; 2 Chronicles 32
 - ii. More archaeological, epigraphic, and pictorial evidence than you can shake a stick at!
 - b. In Assyria...
 - i. 705 BC: King Sargon II dies and Sennacherib his heir inherits the throne
 - ii. Every nation of the Fertile Crescent under Assyrian rule rebels
 - iii. Sennacherib initiates a four-year campaign to reclaim his territory
 - c. In Judah...
 - i. Hezekiah prepares for war – siege warfare, to be exact
 - ii. Secures Jerusalem’s water supply
 1. The Siloam Tunnel/Hezekiah’s Tunnel (1838)
 2. The Siloam Tunnel Inscription (1880)
 - iii. Refortifies Jerusalem – the “Broad Wall” (1967-69)
 - iv. Stockpiles food and institutes martial law – the “*lemelek* jars”
 - v. The City of Lachish
 1. Excavations at Lachish prove an Assyrian destruction
 2. Sennacherib’s carved marble panels depict the battle
 - vi. Sennacherib’s account of his campaigns on the Taylor Prism
 1. Names Hezekiah!
 2. But does not claim victory over Jerusalem
3. Hezekiah the Faithful King
 - a. Isaiah 37:1-7: Unlike Ahaz, Hezekiah goes looking for Isaiah
 - b. Isaiah 37:10-13: Whom will Hezekiah trust?
 - c. Isaiah 37:18-20h: The point! Hezekiah prays that Yahweh will prove himself different from the “gods of the nations,” who are unable to save
 - d. How does Hezekiah compare to Ahaz?

Isaiah 37:20 *“And now, O Yahweh our God, deliver us from his hand so that all the kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O Yahweh, are God!” (author’s translation)*