

# Isaiah 6-8 (Cont)

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# Isaiah 8 (Cont)

- **Isaiah 8:5-8**

- As we saw in **Isaiah 7:3\***<sub>1</sub>, King Ahaz was looking at the upper pool on the road to the Fuller's Field known as the pool of Gihon which served as a source of water for Jerusalem
- The Lord speaks to Isaiah and tells him that because the King Ahaz refused to trust him with the waters of Shiloah (the two kingdoms of the North), Judah will be overrun up to its necks by a mighty river (The Assyrian Empire)
- This will happen during the time of King Ahaz's son Hezekiah – "O Immanuel"

# Isaiah 8 (Cont)

- It is possible according to Jewish tradition that King *Hezekiah* is the son that King *Ahaz* was required to call *Immanuel* in **Isaiah 7:14\***<sub>2</sub>
- Hezekiah's mother *Abi* (*Abijah*) is considered by some scholars to be the *almah* or “young woman” of **Isaiah 7:14**
- We hear the term “Immanuel” three times within this prophecy of Isaiah \*

# Isaiah 8 (Cont)

- **Isaiah 8:9-22**

- The Lord continues to protect *Judah* by promising that it “will come to naught” which is an echo from **Isaiah 7:7** \*<sub>3</sub>
- “God is with us” means “Immanuel”
- This means that the *Assyrians* will not conquer *Jerusalem*
- The Lord calls upon *Isaiah* to tell the people of *Judah* to trust in God and avoid seeking guidance from mediums and wizards
- He warns that if they do not, they will end up in darkness, gloom and anguish
- **Now let’s look back at 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18:17 where we left off last week**

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18:17-18**

- The King of *Assyria*, after capturing all of *Judea* except *Jerusalem*, sends his entire army to completely surround the city of *Jerusalem*
- As we just saw *Isaiah* prophesied that the river of *Assyria* would overflow its banks in the land of *Immanuel* and fill it up to its neck (**Is 8:7-8**)
- Also, look at how earlier King *Ahaz*, due to his lack of faith, was afraid of the two little streams (*Syria* and *Israel* **Is 7:2** \*<sub>4</sub>) when he refused to seek God's help in accordance with **2<sup>nd</sup> Sam 7**
- Here his son *Hezekiah* is faced with the mighty river of *Assyria*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18 (Cont)

- Upon arrival in *Jerusalem* the leaders of the *Assyrian* army visit the *Spring of Gihon* located on the road to the *Fuller's Field* outside the city wall
- Remember that God told *Isaiah* to meet King *Ahaz* at the upper pool on the road to the *Fuller's Field* and told him not to fear the *Assyrians* (**Is 7:3** \*<sub>5</sub>)
- Here *Hezekiah* is standing at the *Spring of Gihon*, the water source for *Jerusalem* which would also serve as the water source for the attacking Army of *Assyria*
- But earlier, as foretold by *Isaiah*, *Israel* and *Syria* never surrounded *Jerusalem* before they were conquered by the *Assyrians*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18 (Cont)

- In the interim between King *Ahaz's* visit to this place and the present, the faithful King *Hezekiah* spent a few months preparing for battle
- He realized that if they were besieged, the *Assyrians* could cut off the water supply to *Jerusalem* since it was located at the *pool of Gihon* outside the city wall
- Therefore, he decides to attempt to dig a tunnel under the bed rock from the *pool of Gihon* to the *pool of Siloam* inside the city wall

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18 (Cont)

- If he is successful, instead of there being just a little well inside the wall, there will be a spring where they could gather water for the entire city
- When the *Assyrian* general calls on King *Hezekiah* to come out to meet him for terms, he sends the following three representatives to refuse the Assyrian's terms
  - Eliakim, son of Hilkiah, who was the **over the household**
  - **Shebna, the secretary**
  - Joah, son of Asaph, the **recorder**



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18 (Cont)

- **Now let's look at a few pictures of the miraculous feat of Hezekiah's tunnel**

# Hezekiah's Tunnel

- *Hezekiah* decided to attempt to dig a tunnel under the bed rock from the *pool of Gihon* to the *pool of Siloam* inside the city wall
- He set out two teams (one from each end) to dig through the rock with the miraculous result when they met in the middle, allowing the water to flow to the pool of Siloam
- Even today archeologist cannot figure out how they accomplished the task as the tunnel wandered around like a snake somehow meeting in the center
- Then he walled up the pool of *Siloam* removing it from offering a water supply to the *Assyrians* after they arrived to besiege the city
- During this time *Hezekiah* spent time praying to Yahweh in the temple

# Hezekiah's Tunnel

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Date of Construction	701 B.C.
Length	1750 Feet (1/3 Mile)
Direct Distance	About 1000 Feet
Entrance	Gihon Spring, Kidron Valley
Exit	Pool of Siloam, Central Valley
Elevation Drop	2 Feet
Lighting	None: Carry Flashlight or Candle
Height	5 1/2 - 6 1/2 Feet along most of the length
Minimum Height	4 Feet, 9 Inches
Water Depth	3 - 3 1/2 Feet on June 26, 1995

# Transition

- **Now we will jump ahead to Isaiah 22:15-25** for an interesting series of events that have a major impact on the role that Peter will play in the New Testament as the *Al bayith* of the Kingdom of God

# Isaiah 22

- **Isaiah 22:15-16**

- **Shebna** is listed as “the over the household” (***Al bayith***)
  - In **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19:2** we see **Shebna** listed as secretary or scribe to King Hezekiah
  - Before he was demoted he built a monument (tomb) for himself in the Kidron valley
  - In the ancient pagan world people constructed elaborate tombs for themselves so they would be remembered by people after they died
  - King Hezekiah is working around the clock getting ready for the Assyrian invasion while Shebna, his Al Bayith, is busy building a monument for himself

# Isaiah 22 (Cont)

- The Lord tells *Shebna* that he will be removed from his office and cast into the wilderness where he will die, his body eaten by vultures and wild animals and without a proper burial
- This means that he will not go to *Shoal*, the place of the dead

# Isaiah 22 (Cont)

- **Isaiah 22:19-25**

- *Shebna* is going to be removed from his office and *Eliakim* is going to replace him
- That is where we are in 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18:17 where *Eliakim* takes his office of ***Al bayith*** and *Shebna* is listed as ***secretary***
- We have heard this language of binding and loosing in the New Testament (**Mt 16:13-20** \*<sub>6</sub>) where Jesus installs Peter as his ***Al bayith*** in fulfilment of **2<sup>nd</sup> Sam 7**

# Isaiah 22 (Cont)

- The word of God is no longer in stone but in the flesh of men
- The Apostles become the foundation stones of the new living temple with Jesus as the corner stone
- **Isaiah 22** comes up in the Roman lectionary cycle in the year three along with **Matthew 16**
- Many priests are not aware of this relationship
- **Now let's return to 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18:19**



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18:19-35**

- The Assyrians surround Jerusalem but find no water source
- They begin to taunt *Hezekiah* and those in *Jerusalem* telling them that if they surrender, their lives would be spared
- They tell the people **not to listen to King *Hezekiah*** because he will not be able to protect them from such a mighty army
- The three representatives of King *Hezekiah* ask the *Assyrians* to speak to them in *Aramaic* rather than the language of the Judean people

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18 (Cont)

- The *Assyrians* refuse and continue to taunt the people of *Judah* in their own language
- They make all sorts of promises to the people of *Judah* if they would surrender
- They ask what god of what kingdom has been able to withstand their might?
- They answered that no nation has been able to resist their power
- They again indicate that King *Hezekiah* will not be able to protect them \*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18:36**

- The three servants King *Hezekiah* sent to meet with the *Assyrians* return inside the wall to report to King *Hezekiah* the demands of the *Assyrians*
- **We will continue the story in 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19**

2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19:1-2**

- Compare and contrast the difference between King *Ahaz* and his son King *Hezekiah*
- *Isaiah* comes to King *Ahaz*, the polytheist, and says “don’t worry, just trust in *Yahweh* and everything will be OK”
  - Ahaz says “I don’t think so”
- *Hezekiah*, the monotheist, goes to *Isaiah* seeking his council to find out what he should do
  - Prays in the temple while building the tunnel \*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19:3-7**

- Things look very bad
- The people of *Jerusalem* are completely surrounded by the *Assyrians*
- King *Hezekiah* is afraid and sends his representatives to deliver a message to *Isaiah* seeking advice
- *Isaiah* tells the king that he should not fear the words of the *Assyrians* because the Lord will cause the King of *Assyria* to hear a rumor causing him to return to *Assyria* where he will be killed by his sons \*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19:8-13**

- The *Assyrian* King's servant *Rebshakeh* finds out that the king has left ***Lachish*** and is fighting against ***Libnah***
  - Further, that he was being threatened by the King of *Ethiopia*
  - The King of *Assyria* sends his messengers to taunt the people of Jerusalem again, pointing out that no god has been able to prevent the *Assyrians* from conquering them
- \*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19:14-34**

- *Hezekiah* has a much bigger test than his father
- God told King *Ahaz* that because he failed his test to trust in God against the two little “bubbling brooks” (Israel and Syria), his son would be confronted by a “mighty river” (Assyria)
- At this point the only part of the kingdom of *Judah* that was above water was Jerusalem (the head)



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19 (Cont)

- *Hezekiah* has faith in *Yahweh* because he knows of the promise of **2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7**
- He goes to the temple to pray to *Yahweh*
- God sends him a message through *Isaiah* saying that his prayers have been heard and the *Assyrian* army is about to be over \*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 19:35-37**

- The Army of *Assyria* is effectively wiped out by an angel of the Lord who kills 185,000 soldiers in one night
- The king and the rest of his army return to *Nineveh* where the king is killed by his own sons
- The *Assyrian* Empire implodes, leaving the nations that had been vassals to Assyria (Egypt, Babylon, Judah) to vie for power to see who would rule the region \*

2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20:1-11**

- King *Hezekiah* gets deathly sick
- *Isaiah* visits him and tells him to get ready for death
- *Hezekiah* weeps and besieges the Lord reminding Him who faithful a servant he was
- As *Isaiah* was leaving, the Lord told him to return to the king and tell him that he will be healed and live for an additional 15 years
- Upon hearing this news King *Hezekiah* asks *Isaiah* for a sign that this promise would come to pass
- It was decided that the sign would be for a shadow to back 10 steps on the sun dial \*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20:12-13**

- After this King *Hezekiah* welcomes some visitors from the King of *Babylon* who come with gifts to check on the status of King *Hezekiah's health*
- Unknown to *Hezekiah* they came to see how much wealth and power he had
- In order to show how powerful he was, *Hezekiah* shows these men **all the treasure of *Judah***
- He should have known that his power was not to be based on silver and gold but in “keeping the word of the Lord” as commanded in **Du 17** as *David* had done \*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20:14-15**

- As the *Babylonians* are leaving the palace, *Isaiah* sees them and asks King *Hezekiah* who they are
- The king says that they are friends sent by the king of *Babylon* to check on his illness
- In response to *Isaiah's* question concerning what the king show to them, *Hezekiah* said that they have seen everything in his house and the temple \*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20:16-19**

- *Isaiah* tells the king that because of what he had done, his house (*Judah*) and sons would be taken to *Babylon*
- The king responds that what *Isaiah* had said was good for him as during his life there would be peace and these calamities would only come after he died \*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20 (Cont)

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20:20-21**

- *Hezekiah* dies and is replaced by his son *Manasseh*
- Before we look at Manasseh we need to return to Isaiah
- If we look at the kings discussed in Isaiah prophecies his message covers a period of 100 years
  - Uzziah – dies in 742
  - Jotham – 742-735
  - Ahaz – 735-715
  - Hezekiah – 715-687
  - Manasseh – 687-642



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20 (Cont)

- The book of *Isaiah* contains all sorts of different prophecies and these different episodes
- Unless we jump back and forth between 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings (and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles) and *Isaiah* we can easily get lost \*
- **Let's return to Isaiah 9**