

2 KINGS 18-23

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

In the first half of 2 Kings, we have seen a splintered kingdom with the fall of Israel to the Assyrians (ch. 1-17), and the surviving kingdom with the fall of Judah to the Babylonians (ch. 18-25). In 2 Kings 18, we see a good king come on the scene named Hezekiah. King Hezekiah was likely the best king the people had since David, and the writer of this book gave more attention to Hezekiah than any other king besides Solomon. Hezekiah was twenty-five, he ruled for twenty-nine years, and was known for being a reformer. There was a lot of work to be done after the terrible reign of King Ahaz. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and immediately began making changes.

Hezekiah's list of accomplishments include tearing down idols, reopening the temple, and leading people back to worship. The Bible says this about Hezekiah: "Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. He held fast to the Lord and did not stop following him; he kept the commands the Lord had given Moses." One of the biggest challenges and most memorable stories that Hezekiah experienced was against the Assyrian army. In 2 Kings 19, the king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. The prophet Isaiah spoke to King Hezekiah and told him that the people of Assyria would never enter Jerusalem. As a reminder, a **prophet** is someone who proclaimed God's word for both the present and the future. The Lord would defend the city and rescue it, and that is exactly what happened! It tells us, "That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp." The Lord of Hosts was with them!

Many people think that Psalm 46 is based off of these chapters in 2 Kings. Psalm 46 says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" and that "the Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." The Lord says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." God is the one who has the power to make wars cease, shatter bows, and cut spears into pieces. He can make what feels impossible for us, possible for him. If God can make a way for the people of Judah, He can make a way for us in our circumstances too!

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is our help in times of trouble
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hezekiah's Reign (He was 25?!) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God delivers Jerusalem • Hezekiah's life extended • Josiah the kid king
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Kings 18:5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. • 2 Kings 19:19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, Lord, are God. • 2 Kings 22:11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes • 2 Kings 23:25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prophet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Someone who proclaimed God's word for both the present and the future

Reflection Questions

1.	What were some of the things that King Hezekiah was known for?
2.	How did the Lord protect Jerusalem against the Assyrians?
3.	What do you learn about the character of God through these chapters?