

## 2 Chronicles 32:1 – 36:23

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### III. God Preserves His Kingdom in Judah until the Return from Exile (2 Chronicles 10:1—36:23)

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  - b. "The northern flank lacked a line of defense, perhaps because Rehoboam wished to keep open the possibility of reunion with the north..." (TLSB, 682)
2. When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come to fight, many people of Judah gathered to stop various waterways from flowing, build up broken down walls, raise towers, and make weapons and shields.
3. Then Hezekiah encouraged the people: <sup>7</sup> "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. [MV:] <sup>8</sup> With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles."
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<sup>16</sup> And his servants said still more against the LORD God and against his servant Hezekiah.... <sup>18</sup> And they shouted it with a loud voice in the language of Judah to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to frighten and terrify them, in order that they might take the city. <sup>19</sup> And they spoke of the God of Jerusalem as they spoke of the gods of the peoples of the earth, which are the work of men’s hands.

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outside of the city. <sup>16</sup> He also restored the altar of the LORD and offered on it sacrifices of peace offerings and of thanksgiving, and he commanded Judah to serve the LORD, the God of Israel.

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  - b. Faith trusts in the *unseen* but almighty LORD!

PP. **Sennacherib Blasphemes (32:9-19):** Sennacherib sent his servants to proclaim this message to Hezekiah and the people of Judah: <sup>10</sup> "Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria, 'On what are you trusting, that you endure the siege in Jerusalem? <sup>11</sup> Is not Hezekiah misleading you, that he may give you over to die by famine and by thirst, when he tells you, "The LORD our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria"? <sup>12</sup> Has not this same Hezekiah taken away his high places and his altars and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, "Before one altar you shall worship, and on it you shall burn your sacrifices"? <sup>13</sup> Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of other lands? Were the gods of the nations of those lands at all able to deliver their lands out of my hand? <sup>14</sup> Who among all the gods of those

nations that my fathers devoted to destruction was able to deliver his people from my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you from my hand? <sup>15</sup> Now, therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or mislead you in this fashion, and do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or from the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you out of my hand!”

<sup>16</sup> And his servants said still more against the LORD God and against his servant Hezekiah.... <sup>18</sup> And they shouted it with a loud voice in the language of Judah to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to frighten and terrify them, in order that they might take the city. <sup>19</sup> And they spoke of the God of Jerusalem as they spoke of the gods of the peoples of the earth, which are the work of men’s hands.

- QQ. **The LORD Delivers Jerusalem (32:20-23):** <sup>20</sup> Then Hezekiah...and Isaiah..., prayed... <sup>21</sup> And the LORD sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he came into the house of his god, some of his own sons struck him down there with the sword.
- RR. **Hezekiah’s Pride and Achievements (32:24-33):** <sup>24</sup> In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death, and he prayed to the LORD, and he answered him and gave him a sign [*the shadow went backwards; 2 Kings 20:1-11*]. <sup>25</sup> But Hezekiah did not make return according to the benefit done to him, for his heart was proud.☹ Therefore wrath came upon him and Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>26</sup> But Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.☺
- SS. **Manasseh Reigns in Judah (33:1-9):** He became king when he was 12 years old, reigned 55 years, and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD: <sup>3</sup> ...he rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had broken down, and he erected altars to the Baals, and made Asheroth, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. <sup>4</sup> And he built altars in the house of the LORD... <sup>6</sup> And he burned his sons as an offering..., and used fortune-telling and omens and sorcery, and dealt with mediums and with necromancers [*sorcerers*]. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.... <sup>9</sup> Manasseh led Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem astray, to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the people of Israel.☹
- TT. **Manasseh’s Repentance (33:10-20):**
1. The LORD’s love: <sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Manasseh and to his people, but they paid no attention.☹
  2. The LORD’s tough love: <sup>11</sup> Therefore the LORD brought upon them the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria, who captured Manasseh with hooks and bound him with chains of bronze and brought him to Babylon.
  3. Manasseh’s repentance: <sup>12</sup> And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. <sup>13</sup> He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.☺
  4. The fruit of Manasseh’s repentance: <sup>15</sup> ...he took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built on the mountain of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem, and he threw them

outside of the city. <sup>16</sup> He also restored the altar of the LORD and offered on it sacrifices of peace offerings and of thanksgiving, and he commanded Judah to serve the LORD, the God of Israel.

- UU. **Amon's Reign and Death (33:21-25):** He became king when he was 22 years old, reigned 2 years, and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD: <sup>22</sup> Amon sacrificed to all the images that Manasseh his father had made, and served them. <sup>23</sup> And he did not humble himself before the LORD, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself, but this Amon incurred guilt more and more. <sup>24</sup> And his servants conspired against him and put him to death in his house. ☹
- VV. **Josiah Reigns in Judah (34:1-7):** He became king when he was 8 years old, reigned 31 years, and did what was right in the eyes of the LORD.
- WW. **The Book of the Law Found (34:8-21):** In the eighteenth year of his reign <sup>14</sup> Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD given through Moses.... <sup>19</sup> And when the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes. <sup>20</sup> And the king commanded..., <sup>21</sup> "Go, inquire of the LORD for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do according to all that is written in this book."
- XX. **Huldah – a Prophetess – Prophecies Disaster (34:22-33):**
1. Bad news for the nation of Judah: <sup>23</sup> ... "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: <sup>24</sup> '...Behold, I will bring disaster upon this place and upon its inhabitants, [including] all the curses that are written in the book that was read before [Josiah] the king of Judah. <sup>25</sup> Because they have forsaken me and have made offerings to other gods... my wrath will be poured out on this place and will not be quenched.'"
  2. Good news for King Josiah: <sup>26</sup> "'But to the king of Judah... <sup>27</sup> because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me and have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD. <sup>28</sup> Behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring upon this place and its inhabitants.'"
  3. King Josiah's response: He gathered everyone together; then <sup>30</sup> ...he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. <sup>31</sup> And the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book. <sup>32</sup> Then he made all who were present in Jerusalem and in Benjamin join in it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.
- YY. **Josiah Keeps the Passover (35:1-19):** The Passover celebration under Hezekiah was great (30:26); this celebration of the Passover was even greater (18)!
- ZZ. **Josiah Killed in Battle (35:20-27):**
1. <sup>20</sup> ...Neco king of Egypt went up to fight at Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah went out to meet him. <sup>21</sup> But he [Neco] sent envoys to him, saying, "...I am not coming against you this day, but against the house with which I am at

war. And God has commanded me to hurry. Cease opposing God, who is with me, lest he destroy you.”<sup>22</sup> Nevertheless, Josiah did not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to fight with him....<sup>24</sup> ...And he died...

2. **35:21–23** “...theological question: how could a good king such as Josiah die in defeat? According to the Chronicler, it is attributable to Josiah’s failure to heed the Word of the Lord (35:21–22). (TLSB)

**AAA. Judah’s Decline (36:1-16):** ☹

1. Jehoahaz became king when he was 23 years old and reigned 3 months,<sup>3</sup> Then the king of Egypt deposed him and carried him back to Egypt.
2. <sup>4</sup> ...the king of Egypt made Eliakim [Jehoahaz’s] brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim....<sup>5</sup> Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD his God.<sup>6</sup> Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and bound him in chains to take him to Babylon.
3. <sup>9</sup> Jehoiachin [the son of Jehoiakim] was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD.<sup>10</sup> In the spring of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon, with the precious vessels of the house of the LORD, and made his brother Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.
4. <sup>11</sup> Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.<sup>12</sup> He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the LORD.<sup>13</sup> He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God. He stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD, the God of Israel.<sup>14</sup> All the officers of the priests and the people likewise were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations....<sup>15</sup> **The LORD...sent persistently** to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place.<sup>16</sup> **But** they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against his people, until there was no remedy.☹

**BBB. Jerusalem Captured and Burned (36:17-21):** <sup>17</sup> Therefore [the LORD] brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged. He gave them all into his hand....<sup>19</sup> And they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its palaces with fire...

**CCC. The Proclamation of Cyrus (36:22-23):** <sup>22</sup> Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, ...the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom...:<sup>23</sup> ...“The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him. Let him go up.” The continuing of the nation pointed ahead to our coming Savior! As the wise men said: “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star...and have come to worship him.” (Mt 2:2 ESV)

**Next Week:** Noah, and the worldwide flood! *Please join us!*