

Hezekiah the Great 2





Talk 1 – the Great Reformer



Talk 2 – the Great Leader



Talk 3 – the Great Repenter

The calm before the storm

14 (2x7) years of restoration
and peace

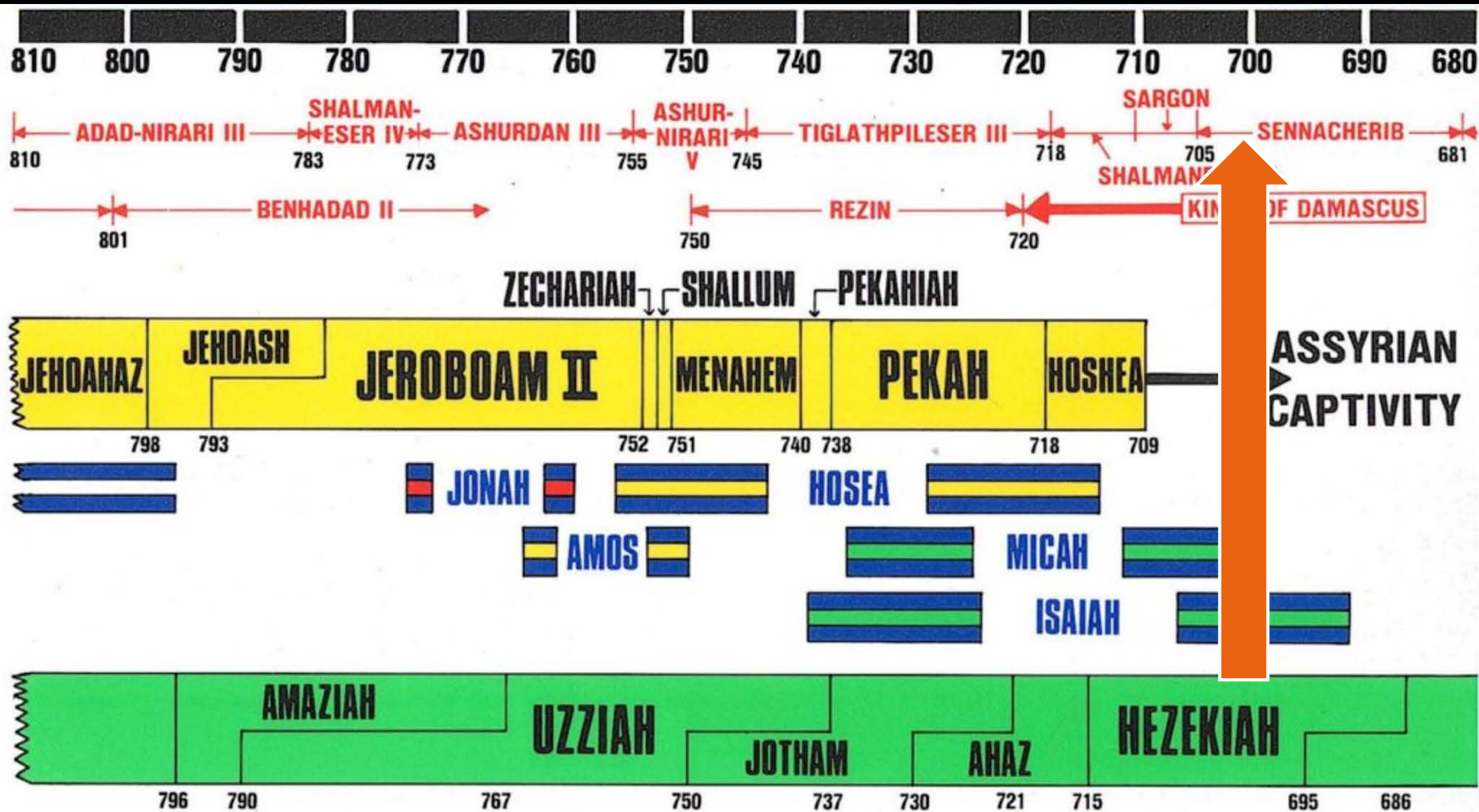
God blessed nation
because of Hezekiah

The Passover continued
to be observed:

Isaiah 29:1

“Add ye **year** to **year**;
let them kill sacrifices”





The Assyrian beast awakens

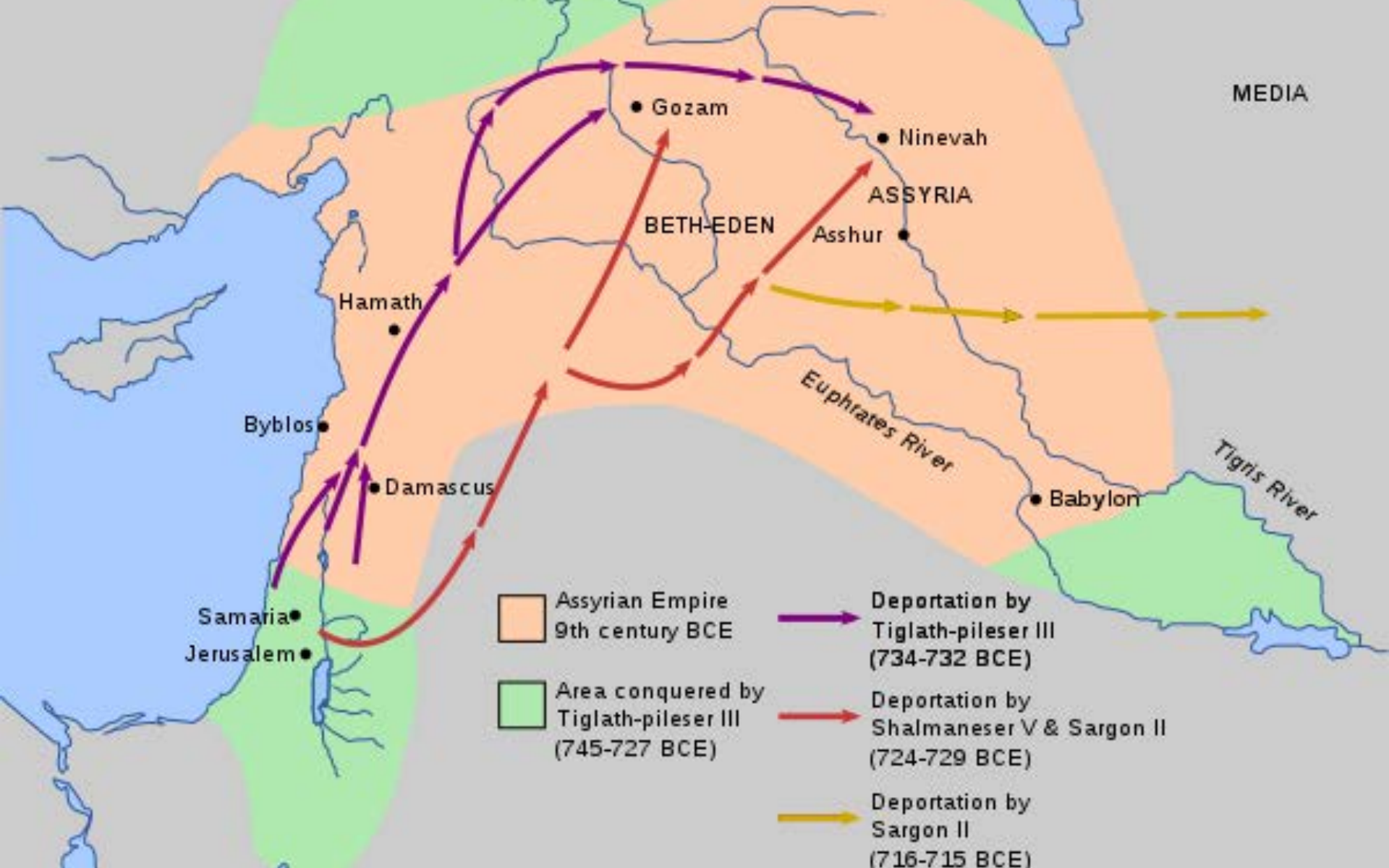
Tiglath-Pileser III's successor, **Shalmaneser V**, led the Assyrian forces in the final destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel (721–718 BC 2 Kings 17:1-6). Shalmaneser died before the siege ended.

Under **Sargon II** (Isaiah 20:1), Israel was carried away captive:
“So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day” (2 Kings 17:23).

Sargon II's successor, **Sennacherib**, decided to sweep into and conquer the southern kingdom of Judah (2 Kings 18:13). Sennacherib was incredibly successful – **except in his campaign against Jerusalem.**



Cast of a rock relief of Sennacherib

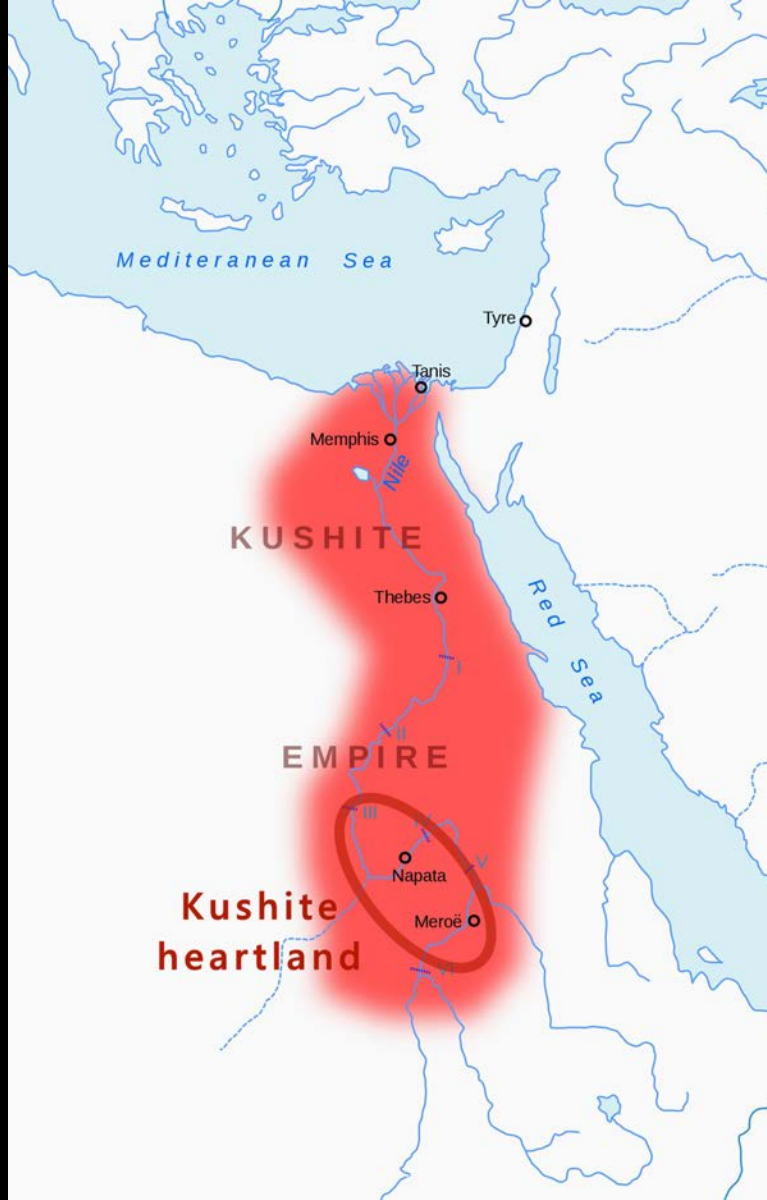


Assyrian vassal states





Judah was **not** the
primary target...



Pharaoh Shabataka
Nubian Museum



Wealth of Thebes and Memphis



Isaiah 37:9 NIV

“Now Sennacherib received a report that Tirhakah, the king of Cush, was marching out to fight against him. When he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah...”



Pharaoh Taharqa* = Tirhakah
Kerma Museum, Sudan

*nephew of Shabataka

Isaiah 20:4-6

So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

And they shall be **afraid** and **ashamed** of Ethiopia their **expectation**, and of Egypt their **glory**.

- Taharqa and his army defeated the Assyrians outright in 673 BC
- Esarhaddon marched again against Egypt in 671 BC
- Ashurbanipal finally defeated Taharqa in 667 BC
- Taharqa – died in Thebes 664 and the city sacked

Hezekiah – the Great Leader

Preparation: age 39

Isaiah 22:8-11 ...and thou didst look in that day to the **armour** of the house of the forest.

Ye have seen also the **breaches** of the city of David, that they are many: and ye gathered together the waters of the lower pool.

And ye have numbered the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses have ye broken down to **fortify the wall**.
Ye made also a ditch between the two walls for the **water** of the old pool...

Military equipment to fight the highly mechanised and chariot-based army of the Assyrians was built.

Every walled city was **reinforced**, and the walls extended with **towers** added. Had been unrepaired since earthquake of Uzziah.

Built the tunnel known as **Hezekiah's Conduit** to ensure water supply.



HEZEKIAH'S PREPARATION FOR REVOLT

2 KGS. 18:1-8; 20:12-20

1 CHR. 4:39-42

2 CHR. 32:1-8; 27-31

- City
- City (modern name)

Gath L'melek City

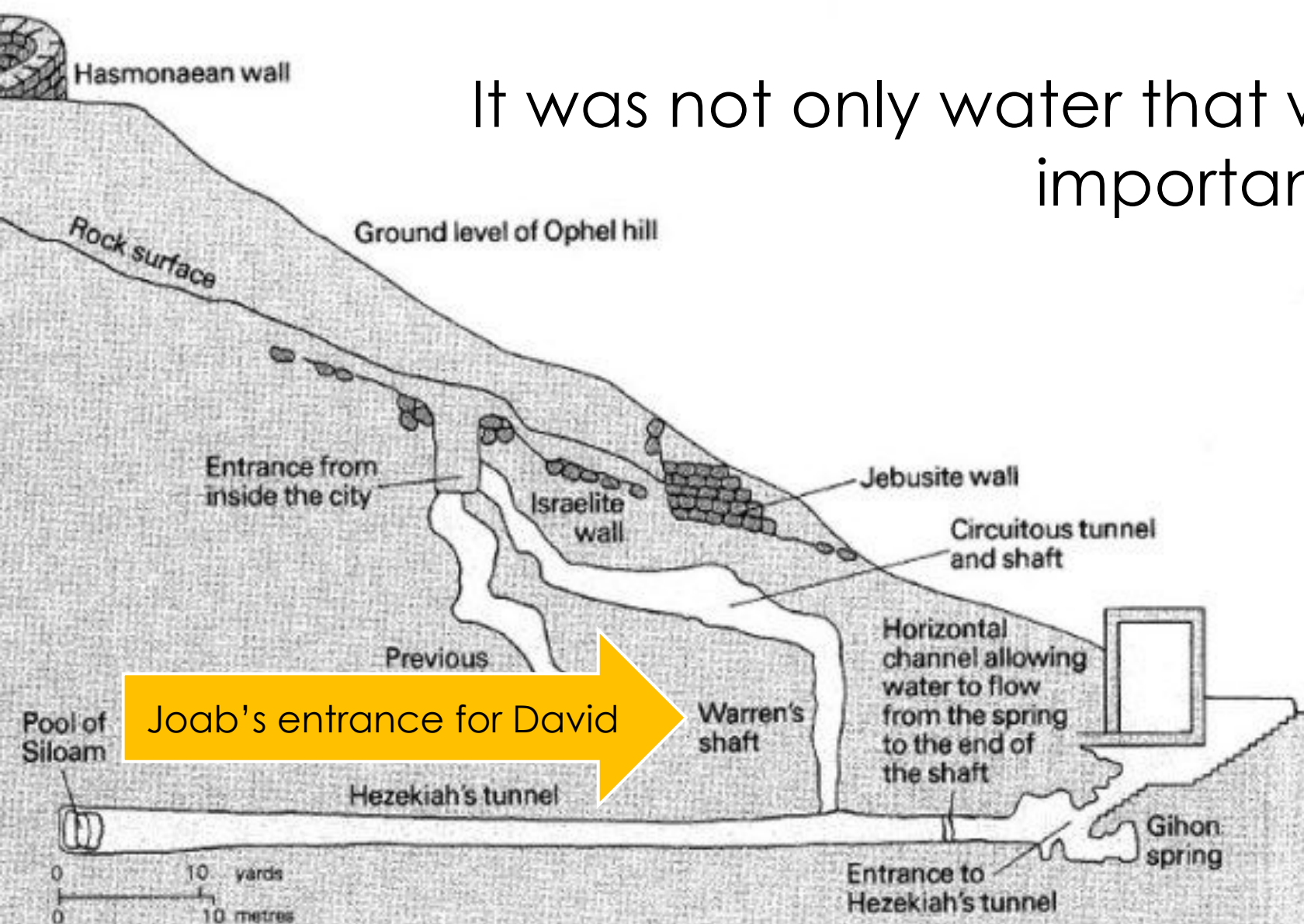
City (fortified)

Royal collection/
distribution center?

Hezekiah's activities



It was not only water that was important...

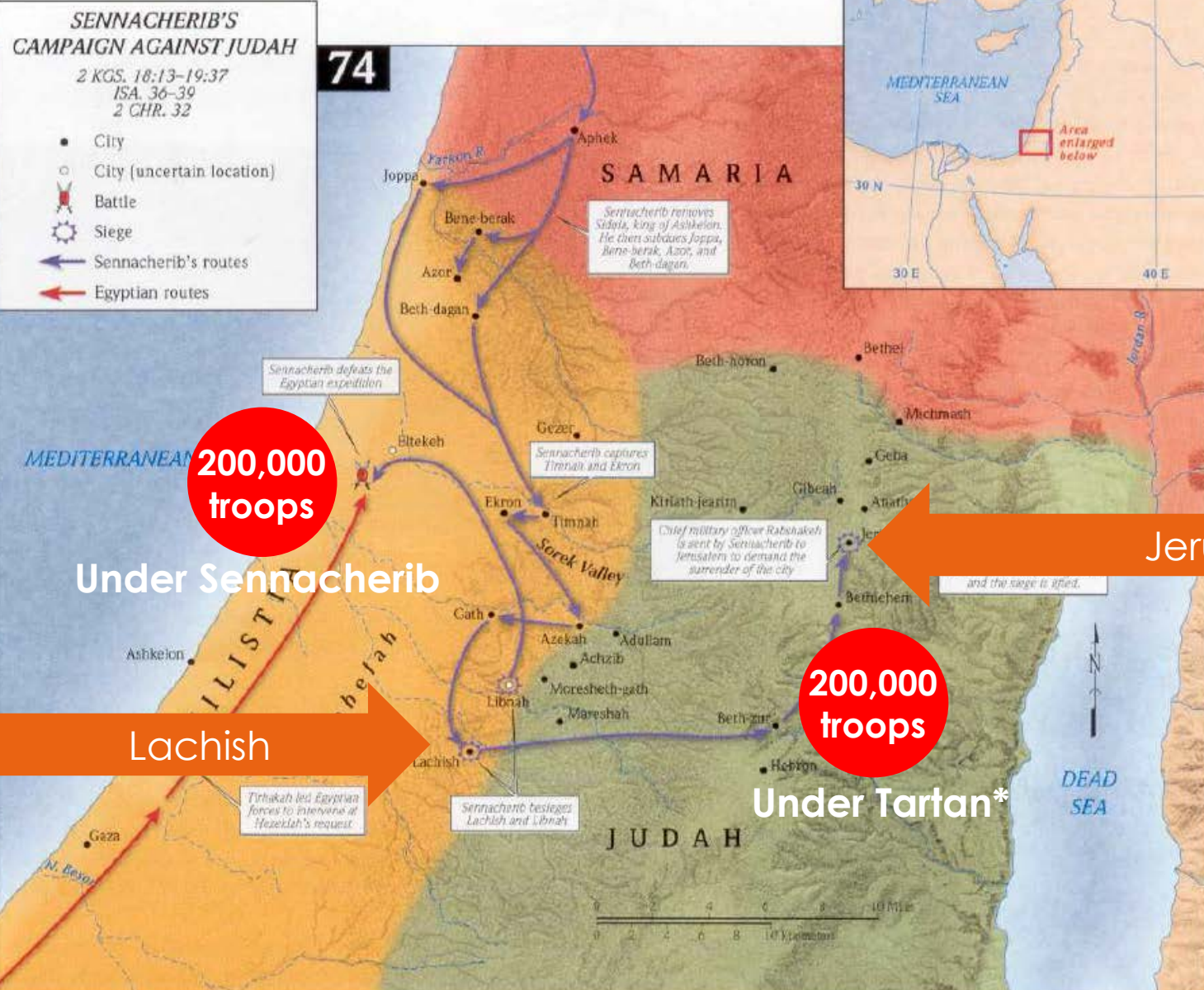


SENNACHERIB'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST JUDAH

2 KGS. 18:13-19:37
ISA. 36-39
2 CHR. 32

74

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ✠ Battle
- ⚙ Siege
- ➡ Sennacherib's routes
- ➡ Egyptian routes



200,000 troops

Under Sennacherib

Jerusalem

200,000 troops

Under Tartan*

Lachish

*a General (possibly Ilu-ittea)

Tartan (= title) ranked next to the king (one on each side)





Lachish siege inscription:

"Sennacherib, the mighty king, king of the country of Assyria, sitting on the throne of judgment, before the city of Lachish. I give permission for its slaughter."



Sennacherib's siege engine at Lachish



Remains of siege ramp at Lachish



Sennacherib's review of prisoners from Judah

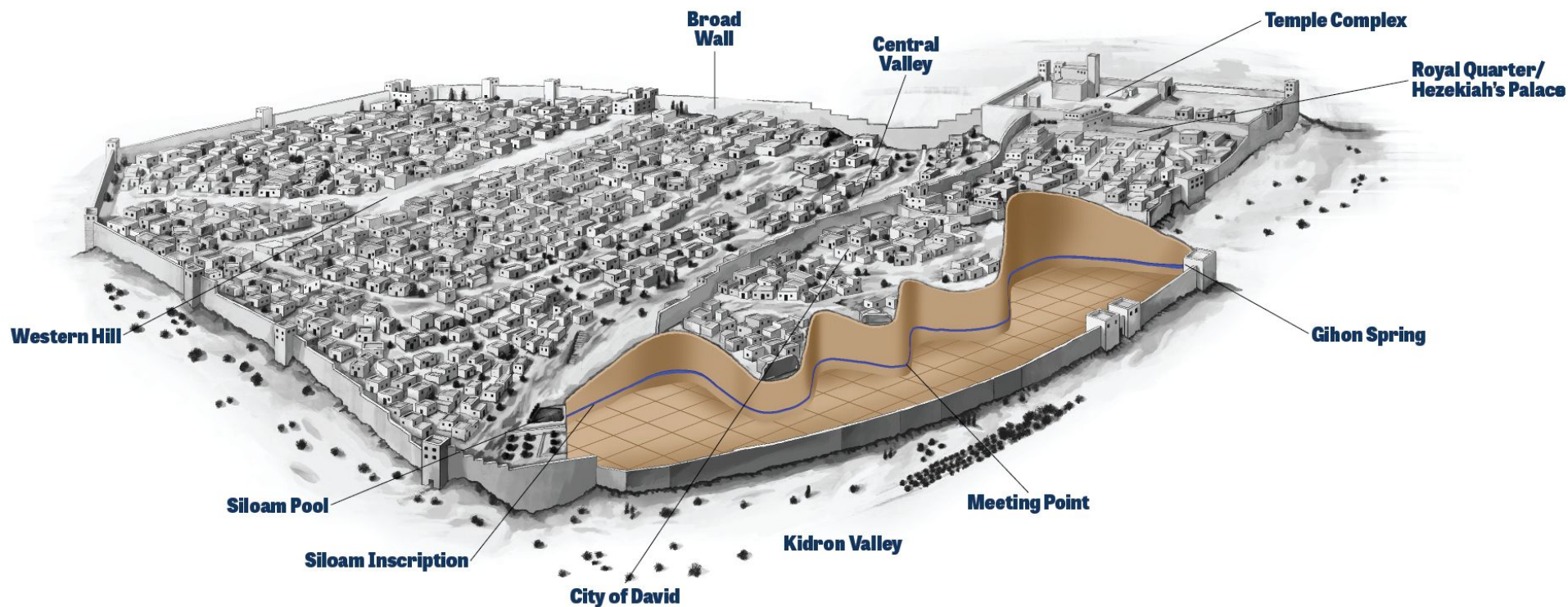


Families from Judah taken to captivity



Jerusalem in the days of Hezekiah

estimated population: 25,000



25,000 people

~10,000 soldiers



100,000 people + 100,000 people



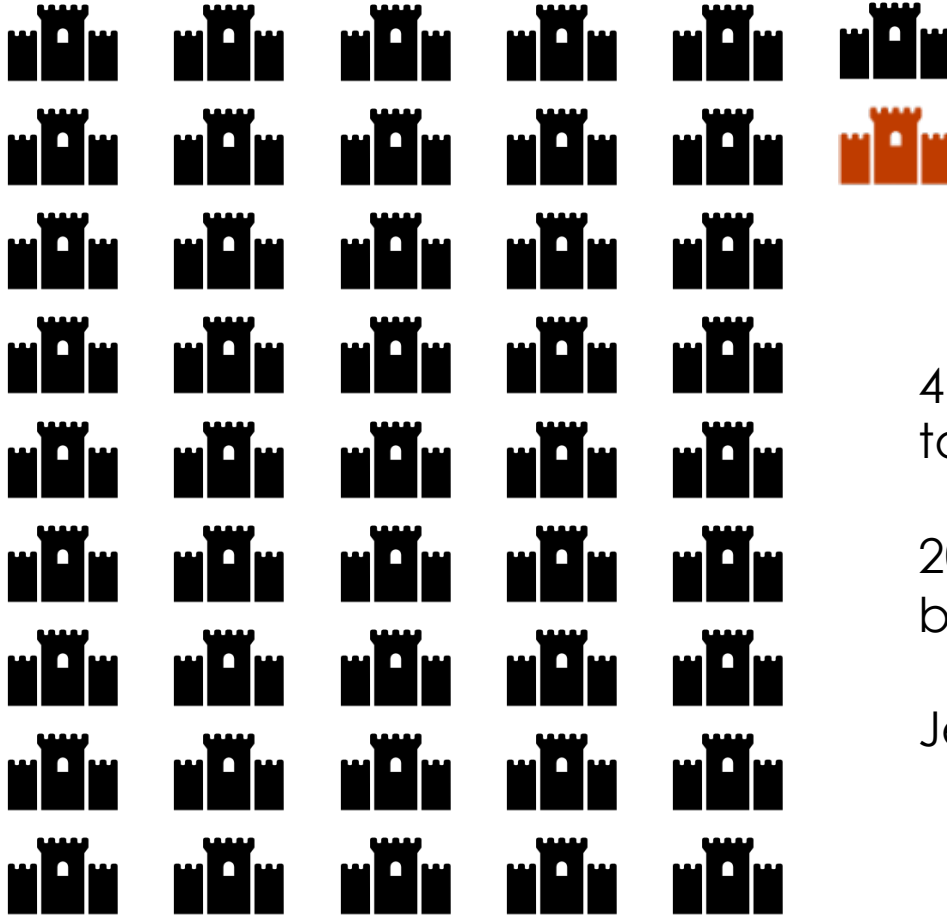
~200,000 **soldiers**



1 soldier in
Jerusalem

versus 20 trained Assyrian soldiers





46 cities had fallen
to the Assyrians

200,000 people had
been taken captive

Jerusalem was **the last one left**

Hezekiah – the Great Leader

After preparation: faith, focus and encouragement

*cf. Elisha at Dothan – 2 Kings 6

2 Chronicles 32:7-8

Be strong (Heb: **hizeku**) and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him*:

With him [Sennacherib] is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles.

And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

Psalm 4:8

I will both lay me down in
peace, and sleep: for thou,
LORD, **only** makest me dwell
in safety.





Joshua 23:10

One man of you shall chase **a thousand**:
for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you,
as he hath promised you.



Isaiah 22:23,24

I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place;
and he shall be for a glorious throne to
his father's house. And they shall hang
upon him all the glory of his father's
house, the offspring and the issue.

The people trusted in Hezekiah

Hezekiah trusted in God

Surely all would be well...

an **untried** faith
is an **unreliable** faith

Isaiah 38:1

In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD,

Set thine house in order: **for thou shalt die, and not live.**



Trouble compounded 2 Kings 18:13-16; Isaiah 22:1-13

Isaiah 38:5,6

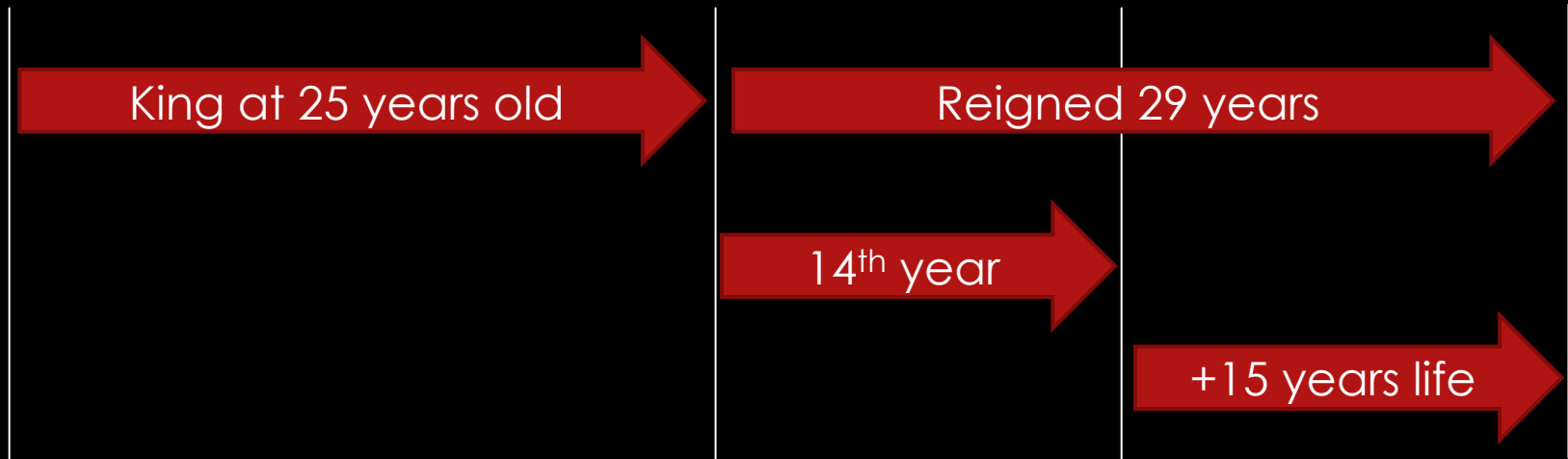
Thus saith the Lord...I will deliver thee **and** this city

2 Kings 18

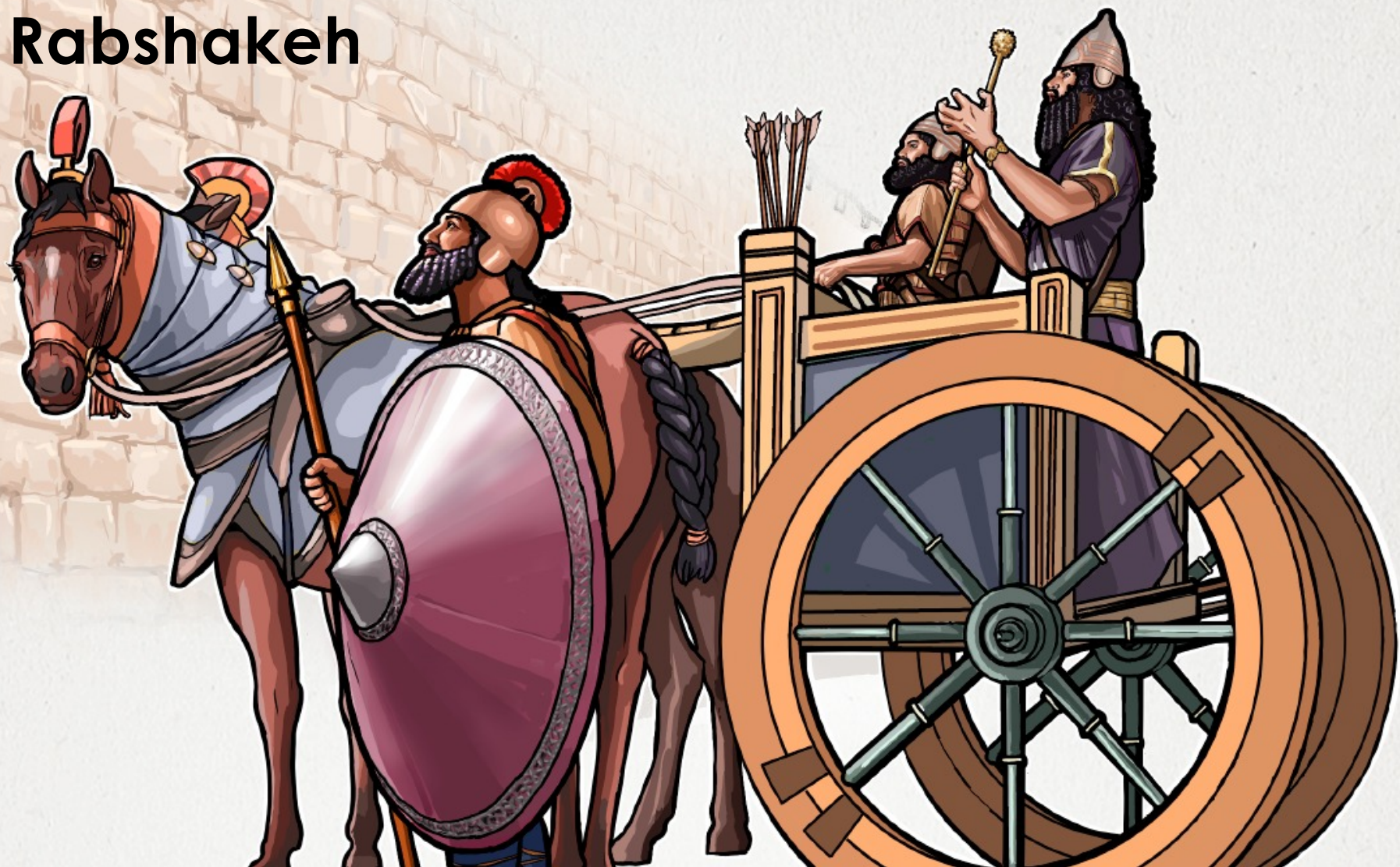
2 Hezekiah ... reigned **twenty-nine years** in Jerusalem

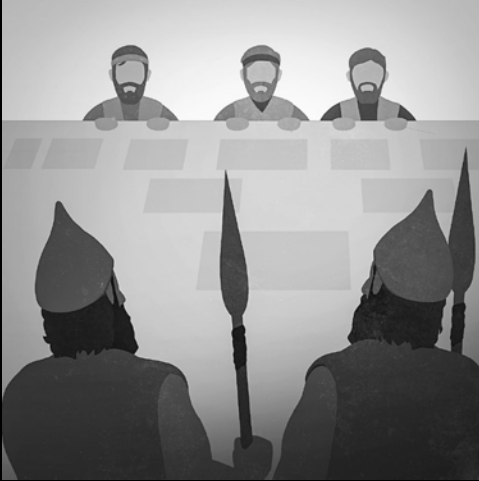
13 In the **fourteenth year** of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah

**sickness & invasion
were concurrent**



Rabshakeh



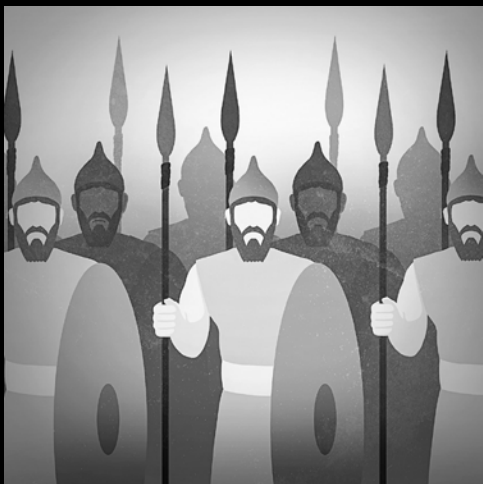


A fourfold-attack

Isolation. Egypt will be no help to you –
Isaiah 36:6



Doubt. Yahweh will not fight for you
because he is displeased with you –
Isaiah 36:7,10



Intimidation. You do not stand a chance against the powerful Assyrian army – Isaiah 36:8,9



Temptation. Surrendering to Assyria will improve the quality of your life – Isaiah 36:16,17

In the name of the king...

2 Kings 18:14

I have offended; return from me: that which thou puttest on me I will bear...

None of this
sounds at all
like Hezekiah!

Hezekiah on deathbed

Shebna-led delegation goes in the name of the king

Price: “three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold” = R5m + R50m

Stripped from the temple

Returned as heroes!

Jerusalem’s drunken orgy: “Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we shall die (and not today as we feared)” – **Isaiah 22:13**

Shortly after, another delegation left to seek Egypt’s help – **Isaiah 30:1-7; 31:1-3; 33:1**

What would Hezekiah do?

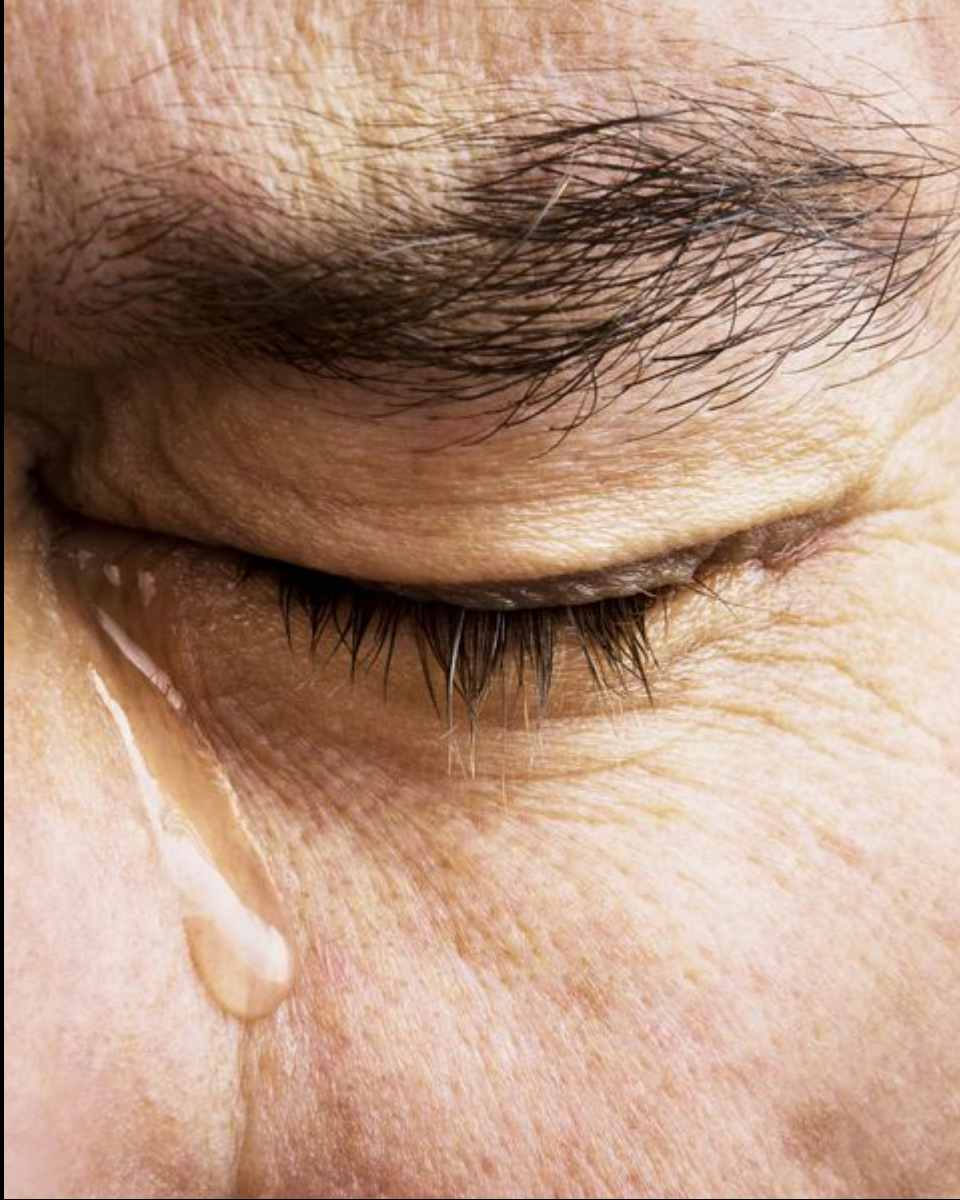


2 Kings 20:2-3

Then he [Hezekiah] turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying, "I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now **how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight.** And Hezekiah wept sore."

Prayer modelled on the promise to Solomon in 1 Kings 9:1-5

His appeal was for the continuation of God's promises to David and Solomon, and that his death would void the promise – it was God-centred!



Prayer heard...



2 Kings 20:4-5

...and it came to pass, afore
Isaiah was gone out into the
middle court, that the word
of the LORD came to him,
saying,

Turn again, and tell Hezekiah
the captain of my people,
Thus saith the LORD, the God
of David thy father, I have
heard thy prayer, I have
seen thy tears: behold, I will
heal thee: on the third day
thou shalt go up unto the
house of the LORD.

2 Kings 20:8-11

And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and **that I shall go up into the house of the LORD** the third day?



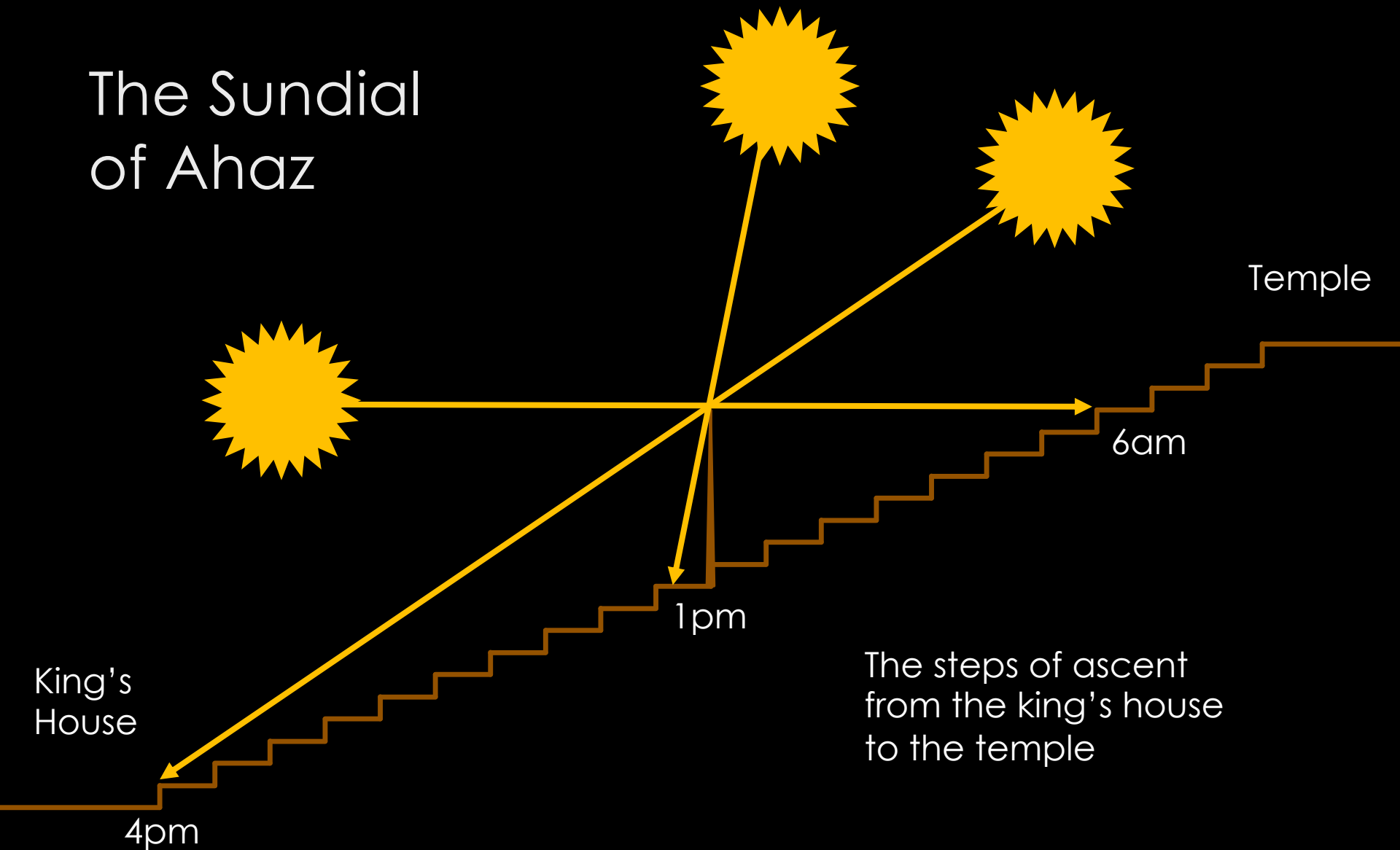
Hezekiah's
motivation

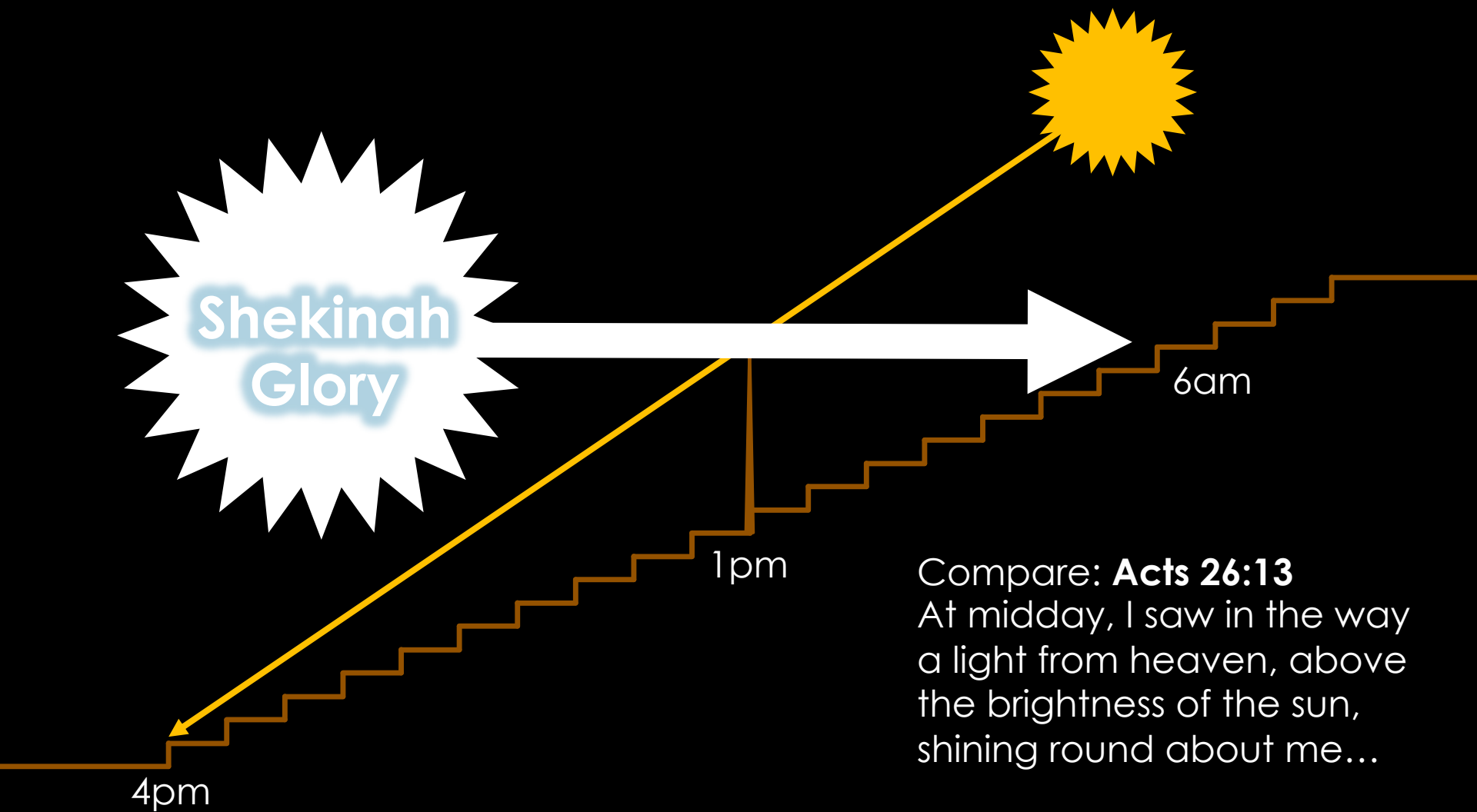
And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees [Heb: degrees = flight of steps], or go back ten degrees?

And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow **to go down ten degrees**: nay, but let the shadow return **backward ten degrees**.

And Isaiah the prophet cried unto **the LORD: and he** brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.

The Sundial of Ahaz





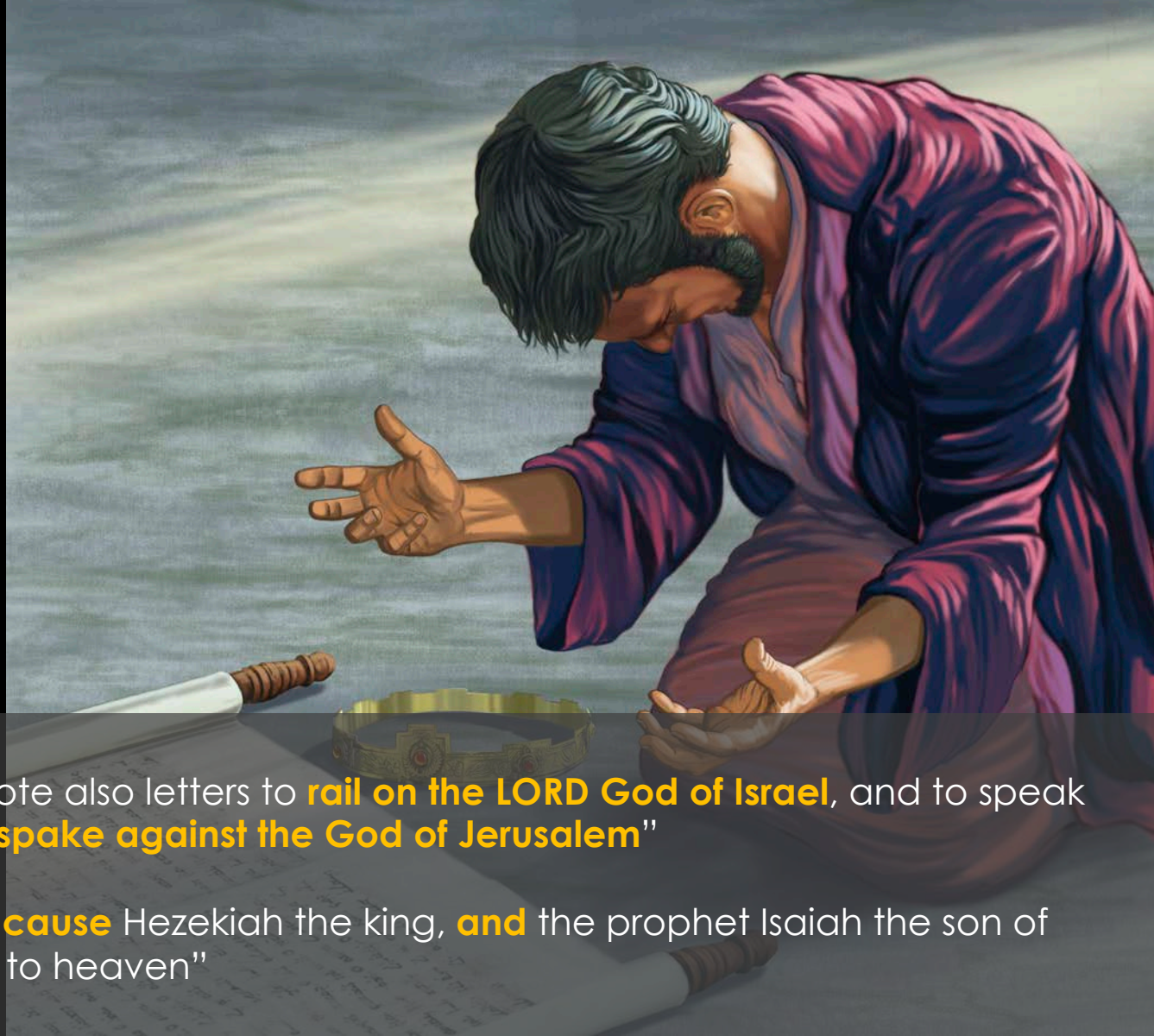
and what of
Sennacherib
and his army?

His fate was sealed by the repeated **blasphemies of Rabshakeh** and the **Letter of Sennacherib** he sent to Hezekiah

see 2 Kings 19:9-19

2 Chron 32:17, 19 “He wrote also letters to **rail on the LORD God of Israel**, and to speak against him”, “And they **spake against the God of Jerusalem**”

2 Chron 32:20 “... **for this cause** Hezekiah the king, **and** the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven”



The swift response of Yahweh by Isaiah

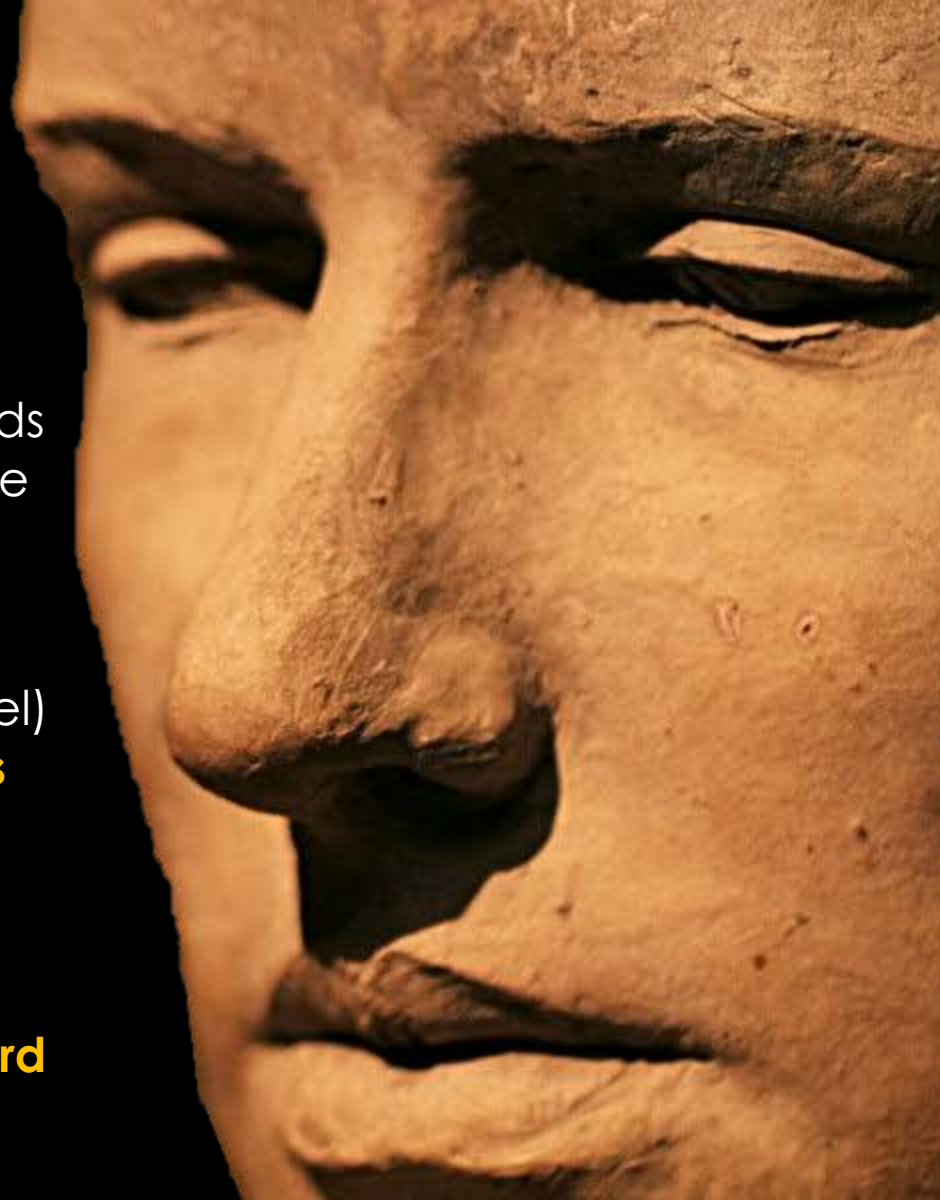
2 Kings 19:6-7

Be not afraid of (the face of) the words
which thou hast heard, with which the
servants of the king of Assyria have
blasphemed me.

Behold, I am sending a spirit (an angel)
against him, and **he shall hear tidings**
(of the destruction of his army),

and **he shall return** to his own land;

and I will cause him **to fall by the sword**
in his own land.

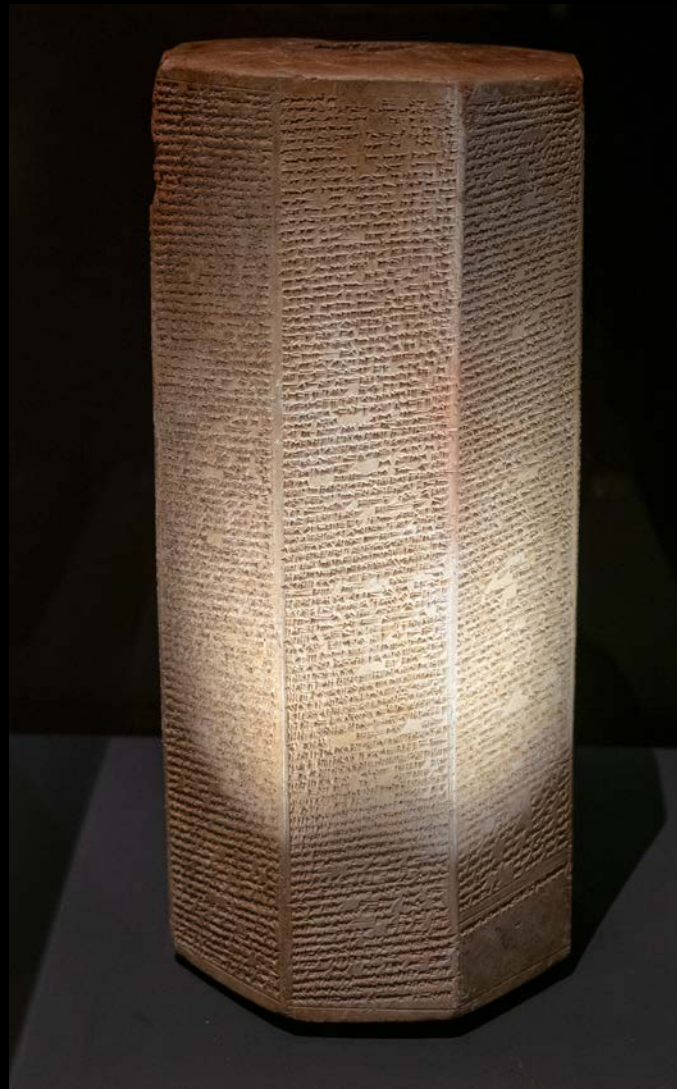


A single moment
A single angel
And 185,000 prime Assyrian soldiers – DEAD



...and it happened at **Passover!**

Sennacherib's Annals



Taylor Prism in the British Museum

2 Kings 19:36

So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.



2 Kings 19:37

And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of **Nisroch his god**, that Adrammelech and Sharezer **his sons smote him with the sword**; and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead.



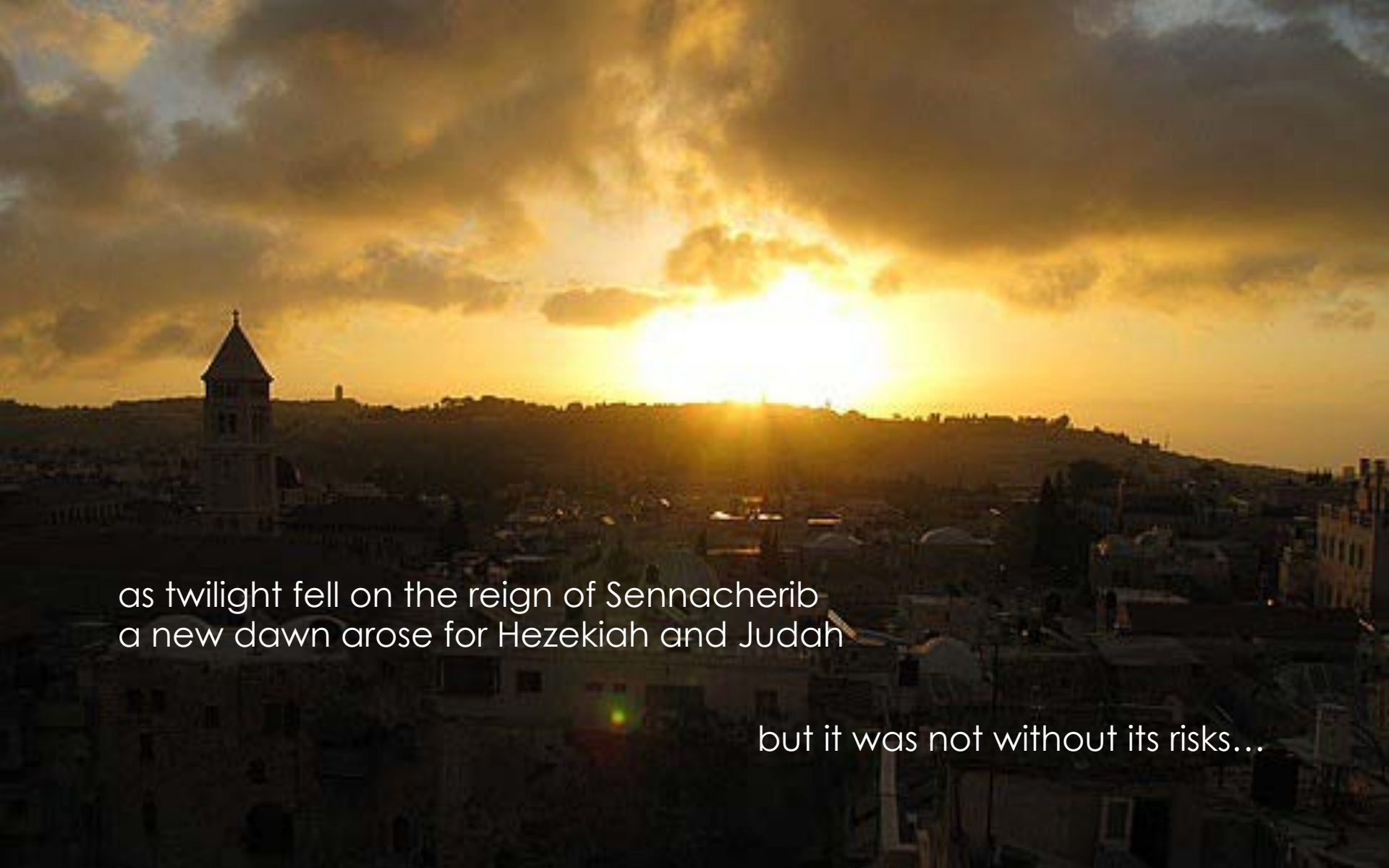
Stele with one of
Sennacherib's sons



Metropolitan Museum of Art



Procession for the death of Sennacherib

A dramatic sunset over a city, likely Jerusalem, with a church spire visible on the left. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and the city below. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds that are illuminated from below by the sun. The city is silhouetted against the bright light of the sunset. A church spire is visible on the left side of the image.

as twilight fell on the reign of Sennacherib
a new dawn arose for Hezekiah and Judah

but it was not without its risks...



Talk 1 – the Great Reformer



Talk 2 – the Great Leader



Talk 3 – the Great Repenter

