

## Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 27.2, 2 Kings 18-19, Part 2 Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

### 1. Abstract of Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 27.2, 2 Kings 18-19, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture focuses on King Hezekiah's prayer in 2 Kings 19, emphasizing its **theological depth**. Hezekiah appeals to God not just as the God of Israel, but as the creator and sovereign over all kingdoms. **The prayer contrasts the living God with lifeless idols, highlighting God's ability to hear and see.** Oswalt underscores that Hezekiah seeks deliverance so that all nations may recognize Yahweh's unique power, and **he contrasts that humble request with the idea of asking for help based on one's own merit.** The lecture then examines the idea of worshiping idols rather than the Creator, using the example of the Assyrians destroying "gods" and a visit to a modern idol maker in India. **Oswalt challenges listeners to seek situations where God's power is evident, even when it requires personal vulnerability.**

**2. 19 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 27.2 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).**



**Oswalt\_Kings\_Sessi  
on27\_2.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 27.2, 2 Kings 18-19, Part 2

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. Oswalt's lecture on 2 Kings 18-19:

#### Briefing Document: Dr. John Oswalt on 2 Kings 18-19 (Part 2)

**Source:** Excerpts from "Oswalt\_Kings\_EN\_Session27\_2.pdf"

#### Main Themes:

- **Hezekiah's Prayer as a Model:** The central focus is Hezekiah's prayer in response to Sennacherib's threat. Oswalt highlights this prayer as a powerful example of faith and reliance on God, particularly its emphasis on God's glory rather than Israel's merit.
- **The Nature of Yahweh:** Oswalt emphasizes the multifaceted understanding of Yahweh presented in Hezekiah's prayer: God of Israel, Enthroned between the Cherubim (connected to the Ark and the covenant), Creator God over all kingdoms, and the Living God.
- **The Futility of Idols:** A recurring theme is the contrast between Yahweh, the living God, and idols, which are merely dead objects created by human hands. Sennacherib's destruction of other nations' "gods" is seen as a demonstration of their inherent powerlessness.
- **God's Reputation and Action:** Hezekiah's prayer isn't about saving Israel because they deserve it, but about God demonstrating His power to the world. Oswalt emphasizes the importance of creating situations where God's intervention is evident.
- **Attacking God Through His People:** Oswalt draws a parallel between Sennacherib's attack on Israel and attacks on the church today, asserting that these are ultimately attacks on Yahweh himself.

### Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Hezekiah's Response:** Faced with renewed threat after a period of euphoria, Hezekiah's immediate response is to take the threatening letter to the temple and present it to the Lord, symbolically involving God in the situation. "Where did he go? Went to the temple. And he spread it out before the Lord. I like it."
- **Understanding "Yahweh":** Hezekiah acknowledges Yahweh as the God of Israel who has created them and made a covenant with them. "You're the God who has given himself to us. You're the God who has created us. You've got a stake in us." He is also identified as the God enthroned between the cherubim, referencing the Ark of the Covenant and the Mosaic Law.
- **Yahweh as Creator:** Hezekiah's prayer emphasizes Yahweh's unique position as the creator God, setting him apart from all other perceived deities. "You alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth...He made it. He's the creator."
- **"Living God" Distinction:** Oswalt notes the rarity and significance of the term "living God" in the Old Testament. This emphasizes the active, powerful nature of Yahweh in contrast to the lifelessness of idols. "That term only appears between a half dozen and a dozen times in the Old Testament. It's not at all common...The idols are dead gods. The idols are lifeless gods."
- **Sennacherib's Misunderstanding:** Sennacherib's destruction of other nations' gods is framed as a misunderstanding. He was not destroying gods, but merely inanimate objects. "He's mistaken. He thought he threw gods into the fire. No, he didn't. He just threw chunks of wood and stone into the fire. Those things aren't gods."
- **Hezekiah's Humble Plea:** The prayer is driven by the need for God to reveal himself to the world, not by any inherent righteousness in Israel. "Now, Lord, our God, deliver us from his hand. So that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, Yahweh our God."
- **Personal Reflection:** Oswalt reflects on his own struggles with putting himself in situations where God's intervention is necessary, revealing a desire to trust God more fully and allow Him to work in his life.

**Quotes:**

- "Went to the temple. And he spread it out before the Lord. I like it."
- "You alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth...He made it. He's the creator."
- "The idols are dead gods. The idols are lifeless gods."
- "He's mistaken. He thought he threw gods into the fire. No, he didn't. He just threw chunks of wood and stone into the fire. Those things aren't gods."
- "Now, Lord, our God, deliver us from his hand. So that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, Yahweh our God."

This briefing document offers a summary of the key themes and ideas presented in the provided source, highlighting Oswalt's interpretation of the text and its relevance to contemporary faith.

## 4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 27.2, 2 Kings 18-19, Part 2

### 2 Kings 18-19: Hezekiah's Prayer - A Study Guide

#### I. Key Concepts and Themes:

- **The Nature of God:** Understanding Yahweh as the God of Israel, the Creator, the Living God, and the Covenant God.
- **Idolatry vs. True Worship:** Recognizing the futility of idols made by human hands in contrast to the power and sovereignty of Yahweh.
- **Prayer and Dependence on God:** Examining Hezekiah's prayer as a model of humility, faith, and concern for God's reputation.
- **Assyrian Threat:** Understanding the historical context of the Assyrian invasion and the threat posed by Sennacherib.
- **God's Sovereignty:** God's power and authority over all kingdoms and events.
- **Attacking God:** Recognizing attacks on the church as attacks on God.

#### II. Quiz:

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. According to Hezekiah's prayer, what is significant about Yahweh being "enthroned between the cherubim?"
2. What does Hezekiah mean when he calls God the "living God" in his prayer?
3. How does Hezekiah argue that the Assyrian kings have not defeated true gods?
4. How did Hezekiah respond to the threatening letter from Sennacherib? Why is this significant?
5. According to Oswalt, what is particularly striking about Hezekiah's prayer in light of the kingdom's peril?
6. What does Oswalt suggest is a danger when people attack the church today?
7. What motivates Hezekiah's request for deliverance from the Assyrians?
8. Why does Oswalt recount the story of seeing someone making idols in India?

9. What is the relationship between God's role as Creator and his sovereignty over all kingdoms?
10. What does Hezekiah's prayer reveal about the proper attitude of a leader facing a crisis?

**Quiz Answer Key:**

1. Being enthroned between the cherubim refers to the Ark of the Covenant and the Law of Moses, indicating that God meets with his people in the context of the covenant. It signifies God's presence and authority within the covenant relationship with Israel.
2. Calling God the "living God" contrasts him with the lifeless idols of other nations. It emphasizes that Yahweh is active, responsive, and able to hear and see, unlike the inert and powerless idols.
3. Hezekiah argues that the Assyrian kings destroyed idols, which are merely wood and stone crafted by human hands. He asserts that these objects are not gods at all, highlighting the distinction between true divinity and human-made images.
4. Hezekiah went to the temple and spread the letter out before the Lord. This signifies his trust in God and his belief that God is the only one who can truly address the threat.
5. Oswalt finds it striking that Hezekiah prays for deliverance not because Israel deserves it, but so that the world may know Yahweh is the true God. This demonstrates Hezekiah's concern for God's reputation above his own or his nation's merit.
6. Oswalt suggests that attacking the church is really an attack on God and that is very dangerous. Sennacherib just meant to try to badger these people into surrendering and distrusting their God, but in reality, he was attacking God.
7. Hezekiah asks for deliverance so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that Yahweh alone is God. His primary motivation is not personal safety or national pride, but the glory of God.
8. Oswalt recounts this story to illustrate the absurdity of idolatry and the contrast between the Creator and the created. It emphasizes the foolishness of worshipping objects made by human hands.

9. Because God is the Creator, he has inherent authority and sovereignty over all that he has made, including all kingdoms. His creative act establishes his unique position as the ultimate power in the universe.
10. Hezekiah's prayer demonstrates the importance of humility, faith, and a focus on God's glory rather than personal merit or national interests. A leader should prioritize God's will and reputation above all else.

### **III. Essay Questions:**

1. Analyze Hezekiah's prayer in 2 Kings 19, highlighting its key theological affirmations and demonstrating how it reflects a proper understanding of God.
2. Discuss the contrast between the "living God" and the idols mentioned in 2 Kings 18-19. What does this contrast reveal about the nature of true worship?
3. How does Hezekiah's response to the Assyrian threat serve as a model for believers facing challenges and crises today?
4. Explore the theme of God's sovereignty in 2 Kings 18-19. How does the narrative demonstrate God's power and authority over earthly kingdoms?
5. Examine the significance of Hezekiah's motivation for seeking deliverance in 2 Kings 19:19. How does his emphasis on God's reputation impact our understanding of prayer?

#### IV. Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Yahweh:** The personal name of God in the Old Testament, often translated as "LORD" in English Bibles. Signifies God's covenant relationship with Israel.
- **Cherubim:** Mythical beings, possibly resembling sphinxes, associated with the Ark of the Covenant and the presence of God.
- **Ark of the Covenant:** A sacred chest containing the tablets of the Law of Moses, symbolizing God's presence and covenant with Israel.
- **Idolatry:** The worship of idols or false gods, a practice condemned throughout the Old Testament.
- **Sennacherib:** The king of Assyria who threatened Jerusalem during the reign of Hezekiah.
- **Assyria:** A powerful ancient empire that conquered much of the Near East, including the northern kingdom of Israel.
- **Covenant:** A binding agreement or promise between God and his people, often involving specific obligations and blessings.
- **The Living God:** A title for Yahweh that emphasizes his active, dynamic, and life-giving nature in contrast to the lifelessness of idols.
- **Reproach:** Disapproval or disappointment.
- **Sovereignty:** Supreme power or authority.



## 5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 27.2, 2 Kings 18-19, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### FAQ on Hezekiah's Prayer in 2 Kings 18-19

- **Why is Hezekiah's prayer in 2 Kings 19 considered a significant prayer?**
- Hezekiah's prayer is considered significant because it demonstrates a proper reliance on God in the face of overwhelming adversity. Instead of panicking or seeking worldly solutions alone, Hezekiah takes the threatening letter from Sennacherib directly to the temple and lays it before the Lord. He acknowledges God's sovereignty, His covenant relationship with Israel, and His unique power as the Creator. The prayer's focus is not on Hezekiah's or Judah's merit but on God's glory being revealed to all nations.
- **What does Hezekiah emphasize about God in his prayer?**
- Hezekiah emphasizes several key aspects of God's nature. He identifies God as "Yahweh, the God of Israel," highlighting His covenant relationship with the nation and His self-revelation to them. He emphasizes that God is enthroned between the cherubim, a reference to the Ark of the Covenant and God's presence in the Temple, and that God alone is God over all the kingdoms of the earth because He is the creator of everything. He also calls Him the "living God" in contrast to the lifeless idols of other nations.
- **What is the significance of Hezekiah spreading the letter before the Lord?**
- Spreading the letter before the Lord symbolizes Hezekiah's complete dependence on God and his recognition that the situation was ultimately in God's hands. It was an act of submission and a plea for divine intervention. It also represents Hezekiah inviting God to examine the threat and the arrogant words of Sennacherib, entrusting the problem entirely to Him.
- **How does Hezekiah contrast Yahweh with the gods of other nations?**
- Hezekiah emphasizes that the gods of other nations are merely idols made of wood and stone by human hands. They have no power, no ability to hear, and no capacity to act. In contrast, Yahweh is the living God, the Creator of all things, who is able to hear, see, and act on behalf of His people. This highlights the futility of trusting in idols and the unique power and sovereignty of the God of Israel.

- **What was Sennacherib's intention in sending the letter to Hezekiah, and how did Hezekiah interpret it?**
- Sennacherib's intention was to intimidate Hezekiah and the people of Judah into surrendering by discrediting their God. Hezekiah, however, understood that Sennacherib's attack was ultimately an attack against Yahweh himself. He recognized that Sennacherib's words were not just a political threat but a direct challenge to God's authority and power.
- **What does Hezekiah ask God to do, and why?**
- Hezekiah asks God to deliver Judah from the hand of Sennacherib. However, his motivation is not based on Judah's righteousness or deserving nature. Instead, he asks God to act so that "all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, Yahweh, are God." He is asking God to demonstrate His power and sovereignty in a way that will reveal His glory to the world.
- **How does Hezekiah's prayer exemplify a proper understanding of God's character?**
- Hezekiah's prayer exemplifies a proper understanding of God's character by acknowledging His sovereignty, His covenant faithfulness, His creative power, and His unique status as the living God. Hezekiah approaches God with humility, recognizing Judah's unworthiness but trusting in God's willingness to act for His own glory. It's a prayer rooted in theological depth and a recognition of God's supremacy.
- **What lesson can be learned from Hezekiah's prayer and response to crisis?**
- A key lesson from Hezekiah's prayer is the importance of turning to God in times of crisis with humility and faith. Rather than relying solely on human strategies, Hezekiah sought God's intervention and trusted in His power to deliver. This emphasizes that believers should prioritize seeking God's glory above their own personal gain or comfort, trusting that He will act in accordance with His perfect will and purposes.