

Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 27.3, 2 Kings 18-19, Part 3 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 27.3, 2 Kings 18-19, Part 3, Biblicalearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture focuses on 2 Kings 18-19, specifically Sennacherib's threat to Jerusalem and Hezekiah's response. The lecture explores Isaiah's prophecy, which mocks Sennacherib and assures Jerusalem of God's protection. **Oswalt highlights God's sovereignty, emphasizing that even Assyria's power is subject to His plan.** He draws attention to the sign given to Hezekiah as evidence of God's trustworthiness and predictive prophecy as a testament to His control over the future. **The narrative culminates in the miraculous defeat of the Assyrian army and Sennacherib's retreat,** showcasing God's faithfulness to those who trust in Him, like Hezekiah. **The lecture concludes with a prayer of gratitude for God's trustworthiness and past blessings.**

**2. 15 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 27.3 – Double click icon to
play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).**



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3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 27.3, 2 Kings 18-19, Part 3

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

Briefing Document: Dr. John Oswalt on 2 Kings 18-19, Part 3

Overview: Dr. Oswalt's lecture focuses on the narrative in 2 Kings 18-19, specifically Sennacherib's threats against Jerusalem and Hezekiah's response through prayer and faith in God. The lecture emphasizes the themes of God's sovereignty, the futility of pride, and the trustworthiness of God's promises.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. **The Mockery of Sennacherib and the Virgin Daughter Zion:** Oswalt highlights the poetic imagery of Jerusalem as a "virgin daughter" defying Sennacherib. This underscores Jerusalem's (and God's) unyielding nature and ultimate triumph. He explains, "Virgin daughter Zion despises you and mocks you. Daughter Jerusalem tosses her head as you flee." This imagery emphasizes the humiliation of Sennacherib's retreat. Oswalt connects Sennacherib's intended rape and pillage of Jerusalem to the violation of a virgin daughter, illustrating the severity of his intended actions.
2. **The Holy One of Israel vs. Sennacherib's Hubris:** The lecture contrasts Sennacherib's pride and blasphemy with the power of "The Holy One of Israel." Oswalt notes that "Holy One of Israel" is Isaiah's favorite term for God, appearing 26 times in the book. He defines the term, saying, "The Holy One, the transcendent one, absolutely other of Israel, who has come into the presence of a helpless, worthless, useless people and given himself to them." This term represents God's unique character and His covenant with Israel.

3. **God's Sovereignty Over Historical Events:** Oswalt stresses the idea that God is in control, even of the actions of seemingly powerful figures like Sennacherib. He quotes, "Have you not heard? Long ago, I ordained it. In the days of old, I planned it. Now, I have brought it to pass that you have turned fortified cities into piles of stone." This highlights the concept that Sennacherib's military successes were ultimately part of God's plan, not a testament to Sennacherib's own power. He extends this concept to other historical figures, stating, "Hitler couldn't have done a thing without Yahweh. Stalin couldn't have done a thing without Yahweh."
4. **The Sign and Predictive Prophecy:** The sign given to Hezekiah isn't immediate but a multi-year process. "You're going to eat grain from the silo this year. Next year, grain is going to come up voluntarily, and you're going to eat that. Three years from now, you will be planting and growing crops." Oswalt states that this predictive prophecy isn't meant for creating a timeline but for proving God's trustworthiness. "Predictive prophecy is not so we can build a timetable and figure out when Jesus is coming. So, we can live like hell until the day he gets here. No." He wants his audience to understand it as evidence of God's control over the future.
5. **The Defeat of Sennacherib:** The abrupt, almost casual, description of the angel of the Lord killing 185,000 Assyrian soldiers emphasizes the dramatic and miraculous nature of God's intervention. "And that night, the angel of the Lord went out and put to death 185,000 in the Assyrian camp." This is contrasted with Sennacherib's boasting and the Assyrian practice of humiliating captives, represented by the "hook in your nose" imagery. Oswalt sees this as a fitting reversal of Sennacherib's planned captivity of the Judean people. He notes that Sennacherib doesn't mention his devastating loss in his own records, but focuses on the tribute he received from Hezekiah and his decision to campaign eastward instead of returning to Judah. "He was on the throne for another 19 years and he never campaigned in the west again. I wouldn't either."
6. **Hezekiah's Example of Faith:** The lecture concludes with a focus on Hezekiah as a model of faith in the face of overwhelming odds. Oswalt emphasizes the importance of trusting in God and recognizing His trustworthiness, stating, "Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the example of Hezekiah... Thank you for the evidence that we can trust you. And if we trust you, you will deliver us."

Implications:

- The passage serves as a reminder that earthly power is ultimately subject to God's will.
- Pride and arrogance are ultimately futile in the face of God's sovereignty.
- Faith and prayer are effective responses to adversity.
- God's promises are trustworthy, even when the circumstances seem impossible.

4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 27.3, 2 Kings 18-19, Part 3

Study Guide: Isaiah, Hezekiah, and Sennacherib (2 Kings 18-19)

Key Concepts

- **The Sovereignty of God:** God's ultimate control and authority over all events, including the actions of nations and individuals.
- **Trust in God:** The importance of faith and reliance on God in the face of adversity.
- **Predictive Prophecy:** The role of prophecy in demonstrating God's faithfulness and control over the future.
- **The Holy One of Israel:** A unique descriptor of God emphasizing His transcendence and commitment to His people.
- **Divine Deliverance:** God's power and willingness to rescue His people from their enemies.
- **Assyrian Arrogance:** The pride and hubris of the Assyrian empire and its king, Sennacherib, contrasted with the true power of God.
- **Virgin Daughter Zion:** A metaphor for Jerusalem, representing its purity, vulnerability, and God's protection.

Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each:

1. What does the phrase "Virgin Daughter Zion" represent in the context of Isaiah's prophecy regarding Sennacherib?
2. Why is Isaiah's use of the term "The Holy One of Israel" significant?
3. How does Isaiah use Sennacherib's own words against him in his prophecy?
4. What does God say to Sennacherib regarding the Assyrian's accomplishments?
5. What is the significance of the "hook in your nose" imagery?
6. Why does Oswalt describe most signs in the Bible as "poor?"
7. What is the purpose of predictive prophecy according to Oswalt?

8. What is surprising about Sennacherib's account of his campaign against Jerusalem?
9. How does the passage portray Hezekiah's response to the Assyrian threat?
10. What does the passage indicate about God's trustworthiness?

Quiz Answer Key

1. "Virgin Daughter Zion" represents Jerusalem as a city that has never been captured, emphasizing its purity and vulnerability, as well as God's promise of protection. It highlights Sennacherib's intended violation and ultimate failure to conquer the city.
2. The term "The Holy One of Israel" emphasizes God's transcendence and otherness while simultaneously highlighting His choice to enter into a covenant relationship with a "helpless, worthless, useless people," demonstrating His grace. This term appears 26 times in the book of Isaiah.
3. Isaiah echoes the boasts of Assyrian kings from their royal annals, highlighting their arrogance and contrasting it with the true power of God. He uses their claims of conquest and domination to underscore their hubris in challenging Yahweh.
4. God reveals that He ordained Sennacherib's accomplishments, emphasizing that even the Assyrian king's power and victories were ultimately part of God's sovereign plan. This underscores God's control over history and the futility of challenging His authority.
5. The "hook in your nose" imagery represents slavery and captivity, highlighting God's judgment against Sennacherib's plans to enslave the Judean people. It symbolizes the Assyrian king's own impending humiliation and defeat, mirroring the fate he intended for others.
6. Oswalt describes most signs in the Bible as "poor" because they often require obedience before the sign is given, making them less about proving God's faithfulness beforehand and more about confirming it after an act of faith. They don't necessarily convince people to obey, but rather validate their obedience.
7. According to Oswalt, the purpose of predictive prophecy is not to create a timetable for future events, but to demonstrate that the future is in God's hands. The fulfillment of prophecy serves as evidence of God's faithfulness, assuring believers that He keeps His promises.

8. What is surprising is that Sennacherib claims he shut up Hezekiah "like a bird in a cage," but does not record the fact that he was unable to conquer Jerusalem, nor does he record the death of 185,000 soldiers in a single night. This omission highlights the contrast between human boasting and divine reality.
9. The passage portrays Hezekiah as a man of faith who, with his "back to the wall," trusts in the Lord and turns to Him in prayer. Hezekiah's response serves as an example of faith in the face of adversity, demonstrating reliance on God for deliverance.
10. The passage strongly indicates God's trustworthiness, demonstrating that God heard Hezekiah's prayer, delivered Jerusalem from the Assyrian army, and fulfilled His prophetic promises. The defeat of Sennacherib and the preservation of Jerusalem serve as evidence of God's power and faithfulness to His people.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the significance of God's sovereignty as demonstrated in the confrontation between Isaiah, Hezekiah, and Sennacherib. How does this narrative challenge human notions of power and control?
2. Explore the role of faith and trust in God as exemplified by Hezekiah's response to the Assyrian threat. What lessons can be drawn from his example regarding trusting God in times of crisis?
3. Analyze the use of imagery and metaphor in Isaiah's prophecies concerning Sennacherib and Jerusalem. How do these literary devices enhance the message and impact of the prophecy?
4. Compare and contrast the perspectives of Sennacherib and Isaiah regarding power and authority. How does the narrative subvert the claims of the Assyrian king and elevate the power of God?
5. Examine the significance of predictive prophecy in the context of 2 Kings 18-19. How does the fulfillment of prophecy contribute to the overall message of the passage, and what does it reveal about God's character?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Sennacherib:** King of Assyria who besieged Jerusalem during the reign of Hezekiah.
- **Hezekiah:** King of Judah who trusted in God and sought deliverance from the Assyrian invasion.
- **Isaiah:** A prophet who delivered God's message to Hezekiah and the people of Judah.
- **Yahweh:** The covenant name of God in the Hebrew Bible.
- **Assyria:** A powerful ancient empire known for its military might and conquests.
- **Jerusalem:** The capital city of Judah and a symbol of God's presence and protection.
- **Virgin Daughter Zion:** A metaphorical representation of Jerusalem, emphasizing its purity, vulnerability, and God's promise of protection.
- **The Holy One of Israel:** A title for God used frequently by Isaiah, emphasizing His transcendence and covenant faithfulness.
- **Prophecy:** A message from God revealing His will and purpose, often including predictions about the future.
- **Sovereignty:** God's ultimate authority and control over all things.

5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 27.3, 2 Kings 18-19, Part 3, Biblelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions about 2 Kings 18-19

1. What is the significance of Isaiah referring to Jerusalem as "virgin daughter Zion"?

This metaphor emphasizes that Jerusalem had never been captured and remained pure. Sennacherib's intended siege was thus portrayed as a violation, a "rape" of this untouched city. Isaiah uses this imagery to highlight the audacity of Sennacherib's threat and the triumph when the city remains unconquered, mocking Sennacherib in its continued purity.

2. Why does Isaiah repeatedly refer to God as the "Holy One of Israel"?

Isaiah's frequent use of this title emphasizes God's transcendent holiness and his unique commitment to the people of Israel. It highlights the contrast between God's awesome power and the apparent helplessness of the Israelites. This title also underscores the blasphemy of Sennacherib, who dared to compare God to powerless idols. The Holy One has specifically chosen and given himself to this seemingly useless people.

3. How does Isaiah utilize Sennacherib's own boasting against him?

Isaiah quotes what sounds like Assyrian royal annals, echoing Sennacherib's boasts about conquering mountains, cutting down cedars, and drying up rivers. However, Isaiah reveals that God allowed and orchestrated these victories. This demonstrates that Sennacherib's power was not his own, but a tool in God's sovereign plan, rendering his prideful arrogance foolish and ultimately subject to God's will.

4. What is the meaning of God's statement, "I will put my hook in your nose, my bit in your mouth"?

This is a vivid image of slavery and captivity. The Assyrians were known for leading captives with hooks in their noses and bits in their mouths. God declares that Sennacherib, who planned to enslave the Judeans, would experience a similar fate. It signifies a reversal of fortunes, where the oppressor becomes the oppressed.

5. What is the purpose of the sign given to Hezekiah regarding the planting and harvesting of crops?

The sign of the crops is not meant to be an immediate proof but rather a delayed confirmation of God's faithfulness. The people were to eat grain from the silo that year, then eat grain that grew up voluntarily the next year, and finally plant and harvest crops in the third year. This sign, fulfilled over time, was meant to assure the people of God's trustworthiness and presence, especially those living three years later.

6. Why is predictive prophecy important in this context?

Predictive prophecy in this passage serves to demonstrate that the future is firmly in God's hands. When the prophecies come to pass, they serve as a powerful testament to God's faithfulness and power. This isn't about creating a timetable for future events, but about providing evidence that builds trust in God's promises and encourages obedience.

7. How does the account subtly reveal the defeat of Sennacherib's army?

The text doesn't dwell on the details of the angel destroying 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. Instead, it states it almost matter-of-factly: "That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death 185,000 in the Assyrian camp." This understated approach highlights the magnitude of God's power and underscores that Sennacherib's withdrawal and subsequent avoidance of further campaigns in the west were a direct consequence of divine intervention.

8. What is the main takeaway from the story of Hezekiah and Sennacherib?

The story of Hezekiah and Sennacherib emphasizes the importance of trusting in God, even when facing seemingly insurmountable odds. Hezekiah's prayer and faith are rewarded with divine deliverance, demonstrating that God is trustworthy and will protect those who rely on Him. It provides evidence for faith and for God's trustworthiness.