

Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 28.2, 2 Kings 20-21, 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 28.2, 2 Kings 20-21, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture focuses on the biblical account of King Hezekiah, specifically his illness and interactions with Babylonian envoys. The lecture explores Hezekiah's lapse in faith, highlighting how he showcased his wealth to the Babylonians instead of acknowledging God's role in his miraculous recovery. Oswalt suggests Hezekiah's actions stemmed from feelings of inferiority and a failure to consistently trust in God. The lecture connects this event to future prophecies of Babylonian conquest and exile, emphasizing the importance of unwavering faith. Ultimately, Oswalt draws parallels between Hezekiah's shortcomings and the broader struggles of his people to maintain their trust in God.

**2. 17 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 28.2 – 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
on28_2.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 28.2, 2 Kings 20-21, Part 2

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 20-21.

Briefing Document: Dr. John Oswalt on 2 Kings 20-21, Part 2

Source: Excerpts from "Oswalt_Kings_EN_Session28_2.pdf"

Main Themes:

- **Hezekiah's Missed Opportunity:** The primary focus is on Hezekiah's encounter with envoys from Babylon after his miraculous recovery from illness. Dr. Oswalt argues that Hezekiah squandered a golden opportunity to testify to the power and glory of Yahweh. Instead, he focused on impressing the Babylonians with his wealth and military strength.
- **The Danger of Inferiority Feelings and Worldly Allure:** Oswalt emphasizes that Hezekiah's actions were driven by a sense of inferiority compared to the wealth and sophistication of Babylon. Hezekiah "forgot that in God's eyes, he's a giant" and instead was "blown away by the world." This serves as a warning against being seduced by worldly values and forgetting God's power.
- **The Prophetic Nature of Scripture:** Oswalt directly addresses the issue of biblical prophecy, specifically Isaiah's prediction of Babylonian conquest and exile. He refutes the idea that such prophecies were impossible or written after the fact, asserting that "this predictive element is woven all through these books." He specifically notes that "His oracles against the nations begin with Babylon."
- **The Importance of Consistent Trust:** Oswalt criticizes Hezekiah's trust in God as a "one-shot thing," a reliance only during times of crisis. He contrasts this with the need for a continuous, day-to-day trust in God, without relying on one's own abilities or wisdom.
- **Hezekiah's Selfishness:** Oswalt critiques Hezekiah's response to Isaiah's prophecy that his descendants will be eunuchs in Babylon. Hezekiah's reply, "The word of the Lord you have spoken is good...for he thought there will be peace and security in my days," demonstrates a selfish disregard for the future suffering of his people as long as he is spared.

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Hezekiah's Illness:** Hezekiah's illness was a serious event that drew attention from afar, including Babylon.
- **Marduk Baladan:** The king of Babylon, Marduk Baladan, was a constant rebel against Assyria, similar to Yasser Arafat. He sent envoys to Hezekiah after hearing of the king's miraculous recovery. "Marduk Baladan was in perpetual revolt against Assyria...He was constantly, all his life, leading revolts that the Assyrians would put down brutally, and he'd disappear into the swamps down there by the Persian Gulf."
- **Hezekiah's Display of Wealth:** Hezekiah showed the Babylonian envoys all his treasures and armaments: "He showed them all that was in his storehouses: the silver, the gold, the spices, the fine olive oil, his armory, and everything found among his treasures."
- **Isaiah's Prophecy:** Isaiah prophesied that Babylon would eventually conquer Jerusalem and that Hezekiah's descendants would serve as eunuchs in the Babylonian court.
- **Hezekiah's Age:** Ahaz died in 716 BC, and Manasseh became king in 696 BC at the age of 12. Thus, Hezekiah ruled for 20 years.

Important Quotes:

- "Here is the golden opportunity...Let me tell you about Yahweh. Let me tell you about the one who can make the shadow go back on the sundial. Let me tell you about the God who hears our prayers—the God who can extend your life 15 years. Let me tell you about him." (Describing the missed opportunity to evangelize the Babylonians)
- "He forgot that in God's eyes, he's a giant...But how easily do we get blown away by the world? So rich, so powerful, so good-looking, so slick, so smooth, so successful." (On the allure of the world)
- "God plus one is a majority." (Referencing the appropriate standard of comparison)
- "The word of the Lord you have spoken is good...For he thought there will be peace and security in my days." (Hezekiah's selfish response to Isaiah's prophecy)

- "He didn't see it as a continued way of life. OK, some crisis happens in my life. I trust the Lord. But day after day after day after day in my life, I trust myself, trust my abilities, trust my energy, trust my wisdom." (On the importance of continuous trust in God.)

4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 28.2, 2 Kings 20-21, Part 2

2 Kings 20-21: Hezekiah's Pride and Prophetic Warnings

Study Guide

This study guide is designed to help you review and reinforce your understanding of Dr. John Oswalt's lecture on 2 Kings 20-21, specifically focusing on Hezekiah's illness, his encounter with the Babylonian envoys, and the subsequent prophecies regarding Judah's future.

Key Themes

- **Hezekiah's Pride:** The lecture highlights the moment when Hezekiah, despite his previous faithfulness, succumbed to pride and displayed his wealth to the Babylonian envoys. This act reveals a lapse in his trust in God and reliance on worldly validation.
- **The Nature of Trust:** Oswalt emphasizes the importance of continuous trust in God, not just during moments of crisis. Hezekiah's example serves as a cautionary tale against trusting in one's abilities and worldly resources.
- **Prophetic Foresight:** The lecture addresses the debated topic of prophetic accuracy, particularly concerning Isaiah's predictions about Babylon's rise and the exile. Oswalt argues for the validity and significance of the predictive element in the prophetic books.
- **Consequences of Disobedience:** Hezekiah's actions lead to a prophetic pronouncement of future captivity, highlighting the link between personal choices and national destiny.

Guiding Questions

Consider these questions as you review the material:

- What was the significance of Hezekiah's illness?
- Why did Marduk Baladan send envoys to Hezekiah?
- What was Hezekiah's motivation for showing the envoys his treasures?
- What was Isaiah's reaction to Hezekiah's actions?

- What prophecies did Isaiah deliver to Hezekiah, and what was Hezekiah's response?
- How does Hezekiah's story illustrate the importance of continued trust in God?

Quiz (Short Answer)

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. Why was Marduk Baladan interested in Hezekiah?
2. What did Hezekiah show the Babylonian envoys?
3. According to Oswalt, what was Hezekiah's fundamental flaw in dealing with the Babylonians?
4. What did Isaiah predict would happen as a result of Hezekiah's actions?
5. How did Hezekiah react to Isaiah's prophecy?
6. According to Oswalt, what does Hezekiah's lapse in trust reveal about human nature?
7. What city was Marduk Baladan the king of?
8. Which empire was Marduk Baladan in perpetual revolt against?
9. How does Oswalt defend the concept of predictive prophecy in the lecture?
10. According to Oswalt, what did the Babylonians desperately need to hear?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Marduk Baladan was interested in Hezekiah because he had heard of Hezekiah's miraculous recovery from illness and wanted to learn about the source of his power. He viewed Hezekiah's experience as a potential advantage against Assyria.
2. Hezekiah showed the Babylonian envoys all his treasures, including silver, gold, spices, fine olive oil, his armory, and everything else found in his storehouses and palace. He spared nothing in his display of wealth and power.
3. Hezekiah's fundamental flaw was his failure to acknowledge and declare the power of Yahweh to the Babylonians. Instead, he sought to impress them with his worldly possessions, revealing a lack of trust in God's strength.

4. Isaiah predicted that Babylon would eventually conquer Jerusalem and that Hezekiah's descendants would become eunuchs serving the king of Babylon. This prophecy foretold the exile and the end of the Davidic dynasty's direct rule.
5. Hezekiah responded to Isaiah's prophecy with a sense of relief, thinking that the disaster would not occur during his lifetime. He prioritized his own peace and security over the fate of future generations.
6. Hezekiah's lapse reveals a common human tendency to forget God's power in the face of worldly influence. It illustrates how easily people can be distracted by wealth, power, and prestige, losing sight of their reliance on God.
7. Marduk Baladan was the king of Babylon.
8. Marduk Baladan was in perpetual revolt against the Assyrian empire.
9. Oswalt defends the concept of predictive prophecy by stating that it's woven throughout the prophetic books. He argues that scholars who dismiss it do so simplistically and fail to account for its prevalence.
10. According to Oswalt, the Babylonians desperately needed to hear that there is a God who can raise the dead, referencing Hezekiah's own miraculous recovery as proof. Hezekiah missed an opportunity to share the gospel.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze Hezekiah's motivations for displaying his wealth to the Babylonian envoys. What does this action reveal about his character and his understanding of God's role in his life?
2. Discuss the significance of Isaiah's prophecy regarding Babylon's future role in relation to Judah. How does this prophecy challenge or confirm traditional views on the nature of prophecy?
3. Explore the concept of trust as it is presented in the lecture. How does Hezekiah's experience illustrate the importance of continuous trust in God, and what are the consequences of a lapse in faith?
4. Compare and contrast Hezekiah's initial faithfulness with his later actions. What factors might have contributed to his shift in focus, and what lessons can be learned from his example?

5. How does Oswalt use the example of Hezekiah to illustrate the tension between faith and the allure of worldly power and prestige? What relevance does this tension have for contemporary believers?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Hezekiah:** King of Judah known for his piety and reforms, who experienced a miraculous healing and later made a critical error in judgment by showing his treasures to the Babylonian envoys.
- **Marduk Baladan:** King of Babylon, constantly in revolt against Assyria, who sent envoys to Hezekiah.
- **Isaiah:** Prophet who advised Hezekiah and delivered prophecies concerning Judah's future, including the rise of Babylon and the exile.
- **Babylon:** A wealthy and powerful city, nominally under Assyrian control, which later rose to become a dominant empire and conquered Jerusalem.
- **Assyria:** The dominant empire during the time of Hezekiah, against which Babylon frequently revolted.
- **Prophecy:** A message from God, often containing predictions about the future. The accuracy and interpretation of prophecy are key themes in the lecture.
- **Exile:** The forced removal of the Jewish people from their homeland to Babylon, which Isaiah prophesied as a consequence of Judah's disobedience.
- **Trust:** Reliance and dependence on God, a central theme in the lecture, highlighting the importance of continuous faith and not solely relying on worldly resources.
- **Inferiority Complex:** A feeling of being less worthy or capable than others, which Oswalt suggests played a role in Hezekiah's decision to impress the Babylonian envoys.
- **Davidic Dynasty:** The line of kings descended from King David, which was threatened by Isaiah's prophecy of Hezekiah's sons becoming eunuchs in Babylon.

5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 28.2, 2 Kings 20-21, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ

- **Why were envoys from Babylon interested in Hezekiah?**
- Marduk Baladan, the king of Babylon, sent envoys to Hezekiah after hearing about Hezekiah's miraculous recovery from a serious illness. Babylon was in constant revolt against Assyria and Marduk Baladan was looking for allies or any advantage he could find. He saw Hezekiah's recovery as a possible sign of divine favor, hoping to learn something that could aid his rebellion.
- **What was Hezekiah's error in dealing with the Babylonian envoys?**
- Instead of using the opportunity to share his faith in Yahweh, who had healed him, Hezekiah proudly showed off his wealth, treasures, armory, and resources to the Babylonians. This displayed a misplaced trust in his own power and possessions rather than in God's.
- **What does the story of Hezekiah and the Babylonian envoys teach us about trusting in God?**
- The story illustrates how easily we can be impressed by worldly power and wealth, leading us to forget the true source of our strength and identity, which is God. It highlights the danger of relying on ourselves and our accomplishments instead of declaring God to others, and the importance of continued daily trust in God, not just in times of crisis.
- **Why is Isaiah's prophecy about Babylon significant?**
- Isaiah's prophecy that Babylon, not Assyria, would eventually conquer Jerusalem and take away Hezekiah's descendants as eunuchs to the king of Babylon is significant because it demonstrates God's prophetic foresight. Despite Babylon being a province of Assyria at the time, Isaiah foretold their future dominance, highlighting the accuracy and power of divine prophecy.
- **How did Hezekiah react to Isaiah's prophecy about the Babylonian exile?**
- Hezekiah was relieved that peace and security would last during his lifetime, indicating a selfish disregard for the future suffering of his descendants. He prioritized his own comfort over the long-term consequences of his actions.

- **What was the significance of Hezekiah being between Ahaz and Manasseh?**
- Ahaz was known for his wickedness, while Manasseh, Hezekiah's son, followed a similarly wicked path. This highlights the importance of a godly leader like Hezekiah, who stood in contrast to the poor leadership of Ahaz and Manasseh. It also emphasizes how the consequences of actions can extend beyond a single generation.
- **How does Dr. Oswalt describe Marduk Baladan?**
- Dr. Oswalt compares Marduk Baladan to Yasser Arafat, describing him as a persistent rebel leader against Assyria who would constantly be knocked down but always get back up again.
- **What did Isaiah say about the mountain of the Lord?**
- Isaiah prophesied that in the last days, the mountain of the Lord's temple would be established as the highest of the mountains, exalted above the hills, and all nations would stream to it, seeking to learn God's ways.