

### 1. Talmud Sanhedrin 94b

The Holy One, blessed be He, wished to appoint Hezekiah as the Messiah, and Sennacherib as Gog and Magog; whereupon the Attribute of Justice said before the Holy One, blessed be He: 'Sovereign of the Universe! If Thou didst not make David the Messiah, who uttered so many hymns and psalms before Thee, wilt Thou appoint Hezekiah as such, who did not hymn Thee in spite of all these miracles which Thou wroughtest for him?'

### 2. The Story of Ahaz

**2 Kings 16:** He did not do what was pleasing to the LORD his God, as his ancestor David had done, (3) but followed the ways of the kings of Israel... (5) Then King Rezin of Aram and King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel advanced on Jerusalem for battle. They besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome [him]... (7) Ahaz sent messengers to King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria to say, "I am your servant and your son; come and deliver me from the hands of the king of Aram and from the hands of the king of Israel, who are attacking me." (8) Ahaz took the gold and silver that were on hand in the House of the LORD and in the treasuries of the royal palace and sent them as a gift to the king of Assyria. (9) The king of Assyria responded to his request... (10) When King Ahaz went to Damascus to greet King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria, he saw the altar in Damascus. King Ahaz sent the priest Uriah a sketch of the altar and a detailed plan of its construction. (11) The priest Uriah did just as King Ahaz had instructed him from Damascus; the priest Uriah built the altar before King Ahaz returned from Damascus... **Isaiah 6-8:** [He was warned to have courage and not engage in alliances]

### 3. 2 Chronicles 29

Hezekiah ... did what was pleasing to the LORD, just as his father David had done. (3) He, in the first month of the first year of his reign, opened the doors of the House of the LORD and repaired them. (4) He summoned the priests and the Levites and assembled them in the east square. (5) He said to them, "Listen to me, Levites! Sanctify yourselves and sanctify the House of the LORD God of your fathers, and take the abhorrent things out of the holy place. (6) For our fathers trespassed and did what displeased the LORD our God; they forsook Him and turned their faces away from the dwelling-place of the LORD, turning their backs on it... (10) Now I wish to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, so that His rage may be withdrawn from us. (11) Now, my sons, do not be slack, for the LORD chose you to attend upon Him, to serve Him, to be His ministers and to make offerings to Him."... (18) Then they went into the palace of King Hezekiah and said, "We have purified the whole House of the LORD and the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the table of the bread of display and all its utensils; (19) and all the utensils that King Ahaz had befouled during his reign, when he trespassed, we have made ready and sanctified. They are standing in front of the altar of the LORD."

(20) King Hezekiah rose early, gathered the officers of the city, and went up to the House of the LORD. (21) They brought seven bulls and seven rams and seven lambs and seven he-goats as a sin offering for the kingdom and for the Sanctuary and for Judah.... (28) All the congregation prostrated themselves, the song was sung and the trumpets were blown—all this until the end of the burnt offering....

Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah; he also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh to come to the House of the LORD in Jerusalem to keep the Passover for the LORD God of Israel. (2) The king and his officers and the congregation in Jerusalem had agreed to keep the Passover in the second month, (3) for at the time, they were unable to keep it, for not enough priests had sanctified themselves, nor had the people assembled in Jerusalem. .... (6) The couriers went out with the letters from the king and his officers through all Israel and Judah, by order of the king, proclaiming, "O you Israelites! Return to the LORD God of your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and He will return to the remnant of you who escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. (7) Do not be like your fathers and brothers who trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers and He turned them into a horror, as you see... As the couriers passed from town to town in the land of Ephraim and Manasseh till they reached Zebulun, they were laughed at and mocked. (11) Some of the people of Asher and Manasseh and Zebulun, however, were contrite, and came to Jerusalem.... (26) There was great rejoicing in Jerusalem, for since the time of King Solomon son of David of Israel nothing like it had happened in Jerusalem.

### 4. 2 Kings 18

[After rebelling against Sannachreib] (13) In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, King Sennacherib of Assyria marched against all the fortified towns of Judah and seized them. (14) King Hezekiah sent this message to the king of Assyria at Lachish: "I have done wrong; withdraw from me; and I shall bear whatever you impose on me." So the king of Assyria imposed upon King Hezekiah of Judah a payment of three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. (15) Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was on hand in the House of the LORD and in the treasuries of the palace. (16) At that time Hezekiah cut down the doors and the doorposts of the Temple of the LORD, which King Hezekiah had overlaid [with gold], and gave them to the king of Assyria. (17) But the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rabсарis, and the Rabshakeh from Lachish with

a large force to King Hezekiah in Jerusalem. They marched up to Jerusalem... (19) The Rabshakeh said to them, “You tell Hezekiah: Thus said the Great King, the King of Assyria: What makes you so confident? ... that you have rebelled against me? (21) You rely, of all things, on Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff, which enters and punctures the palm of anyone who leans on it! That’s what Pharaoh king of Egypt is like to all who rely on him. (22) And if you tell me that you are relying on the LORD your God, He is the very one whose shrines and altars Hezekiah did away with, telling Judah and Jerusalem, ‘You must worship only at this altar in Jerusalem.’... (28) And the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in Judean: “Hear the words of the Great King, the King of Assyria. (29) Thus said the king: Don’t let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you from my hands. (30) Don’t let Hezekiah make you rely on the LORD, saying: The LORD will surely save us: this city will not fall into the hands of the king of Assyria. (31) Don’t listen to Hezekiah. For thus said the king of Assyria: Make your peace with me and come out to me, so that you may all eat from your vines and your fig trees and drink water from your cisterns, ... (33) Did any of the gods of other nations save his land from the king of Assyria?... (36) But the people were silent and did not say a word in reply; for the king’s order was: “Do not answer him.”...

When King Hezekiah heard this, he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the House of the LORD. ... (6) Isaiah said to them, “Tell your master as follows: Thus said the LORD: Do not be frightened by the words of blasphemy against Me that you have heard from the minions of the king of Assyria....

(35) That night an angel of the LORD went out and struck down one hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp, and the following morning they were all dead corpses. (36) So King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp and retreated, and stayed in Nineveh. (37) While he was worshipping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sarezer struck him down with the sword. They fled to the land of Ararat, and his son Esarhaddon succeeded him as king. Lor

## 5. The Destruction of Sennacherib BY LORD BYRON (GEORGE GORDON)

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold, / And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold; /  
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea, / When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.  
Like the leaves of the forest when Summer is green, / That host with their banners at sunset were seen:  
Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath blown, / That host on the morrow lay withered and strown.  
For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast, / And breathed in the face of the foe as he passed;  
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill, / And their hearts but once heaved, and for ever grew still!  
And there lay the steed with his nostril all wide, / But through it there rolled not the breath of his pride;  
And the foam of his gasping lay white on the turf, / And cold as the spray of the rock-beating surf.  
And there lay the rider distorted and pale, / With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his mail: /  
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone, / The lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown.  
And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail, / And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal;  
And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword, / Hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord!

## 6. Hezekiah’s Illness

(1) In those days Hezekiah fell dangerously ill. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz came and said to him, “Thus said the LORD: Set your affairs in order, for you are going to die; you will not get well.” (2) Thereupon Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD.... And Hezekiah wept profusely. (4) Before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him: (5) “Go back and say to Hezekiah, the ruler of My people: Thus said the LORD, the God of your father David: I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears. I am going to heal you...”

(12) At that time, King Berodach-baladan son of Baladan of Babylon sent [envoys with] a letter and a gift to Hezekiah, for he had heard about Hezekiah’s illness. (13) Hezekiah heard about them and he showed them all his treasure-house—the silver, the gold, the spices, and the fragrant oil—and his armory, and everything that was to be found in his storehouses. There was nothing in his palace or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them. (14) Then the prophet Isaiah came to King Hezekiah. “What,” he demanded of him, “did those men say to you? Where have they come to you from?” “They have come,” Hezekiah replied, “from a far country, from Babylon.” (15) Next he asked, “What have they seen in your palace?” And Hezekiah replied, “They have seen everything that is in my palace. There was nothing in my storehouses that I did not show them.” (16) Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD: (17) A time is coming when everything in your palace which your ancestors have stored up to this day will be carried off to Babylon; nothing will remain behind, said the LORD. (18) And some of your sons, your own issue, whom you will have fathered, will be taken to serve as eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”

## 7. Hezekiah’s Accomplishments

- Bring back the Priests/Levites → Jerusalem → His Kingdom → The Alienated Northern Kingdom → World?
- Fix the sins of Ahaz → Jeroboam → Egypt at the Sea?