

## ***THE ONE YEAR BIBLE Reading for July 1:***

### *2 Kings 18:13-19:37:*

These almost two full chapters tell of the 701 B.C. siege of Jerusalem by Assyrian king, Sennacherib. The careful Bible student will see from 18:1 that Hezekiah first came to the throne in 729 B.C. (18:1). So, how can 18:13 read that it was in the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign that Sennacherib came against the fortified cities of Judah? The answer is found in understanding that the figure given in 18:13 refers to Hezekiah's sole reign. When he first came to the throne he was a co-regent with his father, Ahaz, for a number of years. 2 Kings 18:1 speaks of his co-regency and 18:13 of his independent reign.

These two chapters (paralleled in Isaiah 36-38) tell of the siege and the attempt by Sennacherib and his messengers to discourage Judah and make them think there is no way they can oppose the might of Assyria. Just like when his father Ahaz faced the Israel-Syrian coalition (2 Kings 16; Isaiah 7-12), so now the prophet Isaiah reassures Hezekiah in the face of the enemy. Unlike his father, Isaiah listens to the Word of the LORD, Judah trusts in their Deliverer, and the nation is saved miraculously from the hand of Sennacherib. The LORD not only delivers Judah, but also brings about the death of the Assyrian king.

The reader of Kings has now seen the way forward out of captivity and the disciplining hand of God: Trust and obey Him! This message is still needed by us today.

### *Acts 21:1-17:*

Here we see Paul's third missionary journey coming to a close as he travels toward Jerusalem for Pentecost. One subject of interest which arises in this passage is that of New Testament prophesy. The two incidents (Philip's four unmarried daughters and also Agabus) seem to suggest that prophesy in the New Testament does not have the level of authority as it often did in the Old Testament. Agabus told Paul he would be taken captive once in Jerusalem. Paul does not dispute the prophesy, but does not conclude he must therefore avoid going to Jerusalem. After all, he is willing to die for Christ! Most likely the four daughters of Philip, like Huldah in the Old Testament (2 Kings 22:14), did not carry authority on a par with the Scriptures (cf. 1 Timothy 2:11-15).

### *Psalms 149:1-9:*

This psalm calls the people of God to praise Him with great passion. It also affirms that the LORD takes pleasure in His people.

### *Proverbs 18:8:*

One who gossips communicates words which, like with food, can be tasty and desired. The implication, however, is that this is not right.