**Main Thought** Good King Hezekiah (729-686 BC), the best king Judah ever had, was a **reformer**, **negotiator**, **intercessor**, **victor**, **sufferer**, **singer**, and **boaster** in his exceptional life.

**The 725-722 BC Crisis** (9-12).

- In Hezekiah’s (729-686 BC) fourth year (725 BC), Shalmaneser King of Assyria laid siege to Samaria for three years and deported Israel to the east.
- This was **discipline** from the Lord (Prov. 3:11-12; 4:26) for disobedience (12).

**The 701 BC Crisis** (13-37).

**Pacification** (13-16).

- In the 14th year of Hezekiah’s sole reign (beginning in 715 BC), Sennacherib (705-681 BC) attacked Judah in 701 BC.
- Sennacherib’s annals claim to have defeated 46 Judean towns (most notably LACHISH as illustrated in the Assyrian Palace Reliefs) and taken 200,150 Jewish captives. He also claimed to have Hezekiah “like a bird in a cage.”
- Hezekiah payed 30 talents of gold and 300 talents of silver stripped from the temple and royal palace. Alas, appeasement did not work (Jam. 1:5-6).

**Preparation** (2 Chron. 32:1-8).

- In spite of faithful living (1), God brought more trials (Jam. 1:2-3; Psa. 73:2-3).

> “It is a standing puzzle of the Old Testament how good men come to be troubled, and how bad men come to be prosperous.”

**Alexander Maclaren**

- Hezekiah consulted with others (Prov. 24:6). He secured the water sources digging a 1750’ long tunnel 130’ deep connecting the Spring of Gihon (outside the wall) to the Pool of Siloam (inside the wall – 30; 2 Kings 20:20; John 9:7).
- He made **physical** preparations: he repaired the walls, built towers, weapons, and shields; he appointed military officers.
- He made **spiritual** preparations encouraging the people (Josh. 1:9). He acknowledged Assyria’s vast army. Today Satan is a “roaring lion” (1 Pet. 5:8), the “god of this age” (2 Cor. 4:4), the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2 KJV). Like Goliath, over nine feet tall, he defied Israel (1 Sam. 17:4).
- But he ended by preaching there was a GREATER POWER (1 John 4:4).
- Like David, he knew that “the battle is the Lord’s” (1 Sam. 17:47; Psa. 20:7).
- Their “arm of flesh” is no match for “an arm like God’s” (Job 40:9; Isa. 52:10).
- Like David, he fought “in the name of the Lord” (1 Sam. 17:45; Eph. 6:10-12).
- Our **confidence** is in Christ (2 Cor. 3:4; Heb. 13:6) — not in the flesh (Phil. 3:3).