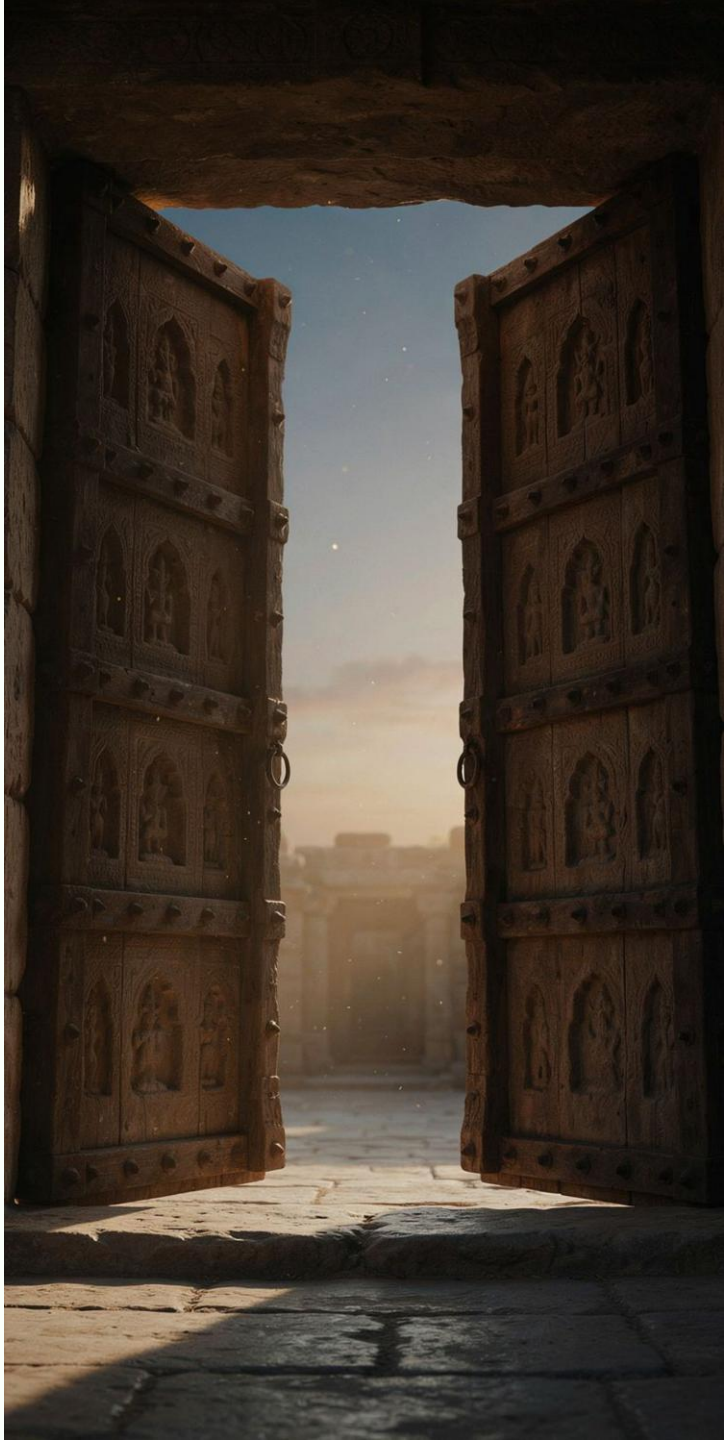
LETTERS FROM SENNACHERIB

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 18–19

What to do when the enemy threatens your peace, your faith, and everything you hold dear.



The Pressure of the Enemy

Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem

17 The king of Assyria sent his supreme commander, his chief officer and his field commander with a large army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. They came up to Jerusalem and stopped at the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field. 18They called for the king; and Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went out to them.

19The field commander said to them, "Tell Hezekiah:

" 'This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: On what are you basing this confidence of yours? 20You say you have the counsel and the might for war—but you speak only empty words. On whom are you depending, that you rebel against me? 21Look, I know you are depending on Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff, which pierces the hand of anyone who leans on it! Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who depend on him. 22But if you say to me, "We are depending on the LORD our God"—isn't he the one whose high places and altars Hezekiah removed, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, "You must worship before this altar in Jerusalem"?

26Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, and Shebna and Joah said to the field commander, **“Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, since we understand it. Don’t speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people on the wall.”**
27But the commander replied, “Was it only to your master and you that my master sent me to say these things, and not to the people sitting on the wall—who, like you, will have to eat their own excrement and drink their own urine?”
28Then the commander stood and called out in Hebrew, “Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria! 29This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you. He cannot deliver you from my hand. 30Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the LORD when he says, ‘The LORD will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.’
31“Do not listen to Hezekiah. This is what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me and come out to me. Then each of you will eat fruit from your own vine and fig tree and drink water from your own cistern, 32until I come and take you to a land like your own—a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey. Choose life and not death!
“Do not listen to Hezekiah, for he is misleading you when he says, ‘The LORD will deliver us.’ 33Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria? 34Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena and Ivvah? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand? 35Who of all the gods of these countries has been able to save his land from me? How then can the LORD deliver Jerusalem from my hand?”

36But the people remained silent and said nothing in reply, because the king had commanded, “Do not answer him.”
37Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went to Hezekiah, with their clothes torn, and told him what the field commander had said.

2 KINGS 19

5When King Hezekiah’s officials came to Isaiah, 6Isaiah said to them, “Tell your master, ‘This is what the LORD says: Do not be afraid of what you have heard—those words with which the underlings of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. 7Listen! When he hears a certain report, I will make him want to return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword.’ ”

VERBAL INTIMIDATION

9Now Sennacherib received a report that Tirhakah, the king of Cush, was marching out to fight against him. So he again sent messengers to Hezekiah with this word: 10“Say to Hezekiah king of Judah: Do not let the god you depend on deceive you when he says, ‘Jerusalem will not be given into the hands of the king of Assyria.’ 11Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries, destroying them completely. And will you be delivered?

The Divided Kingdom: Israel & Judah

⛰️ Northern Kingdom: Israel

10 Tribes

Tribes: Reuben, Simeon, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Ephraim, Manasseh

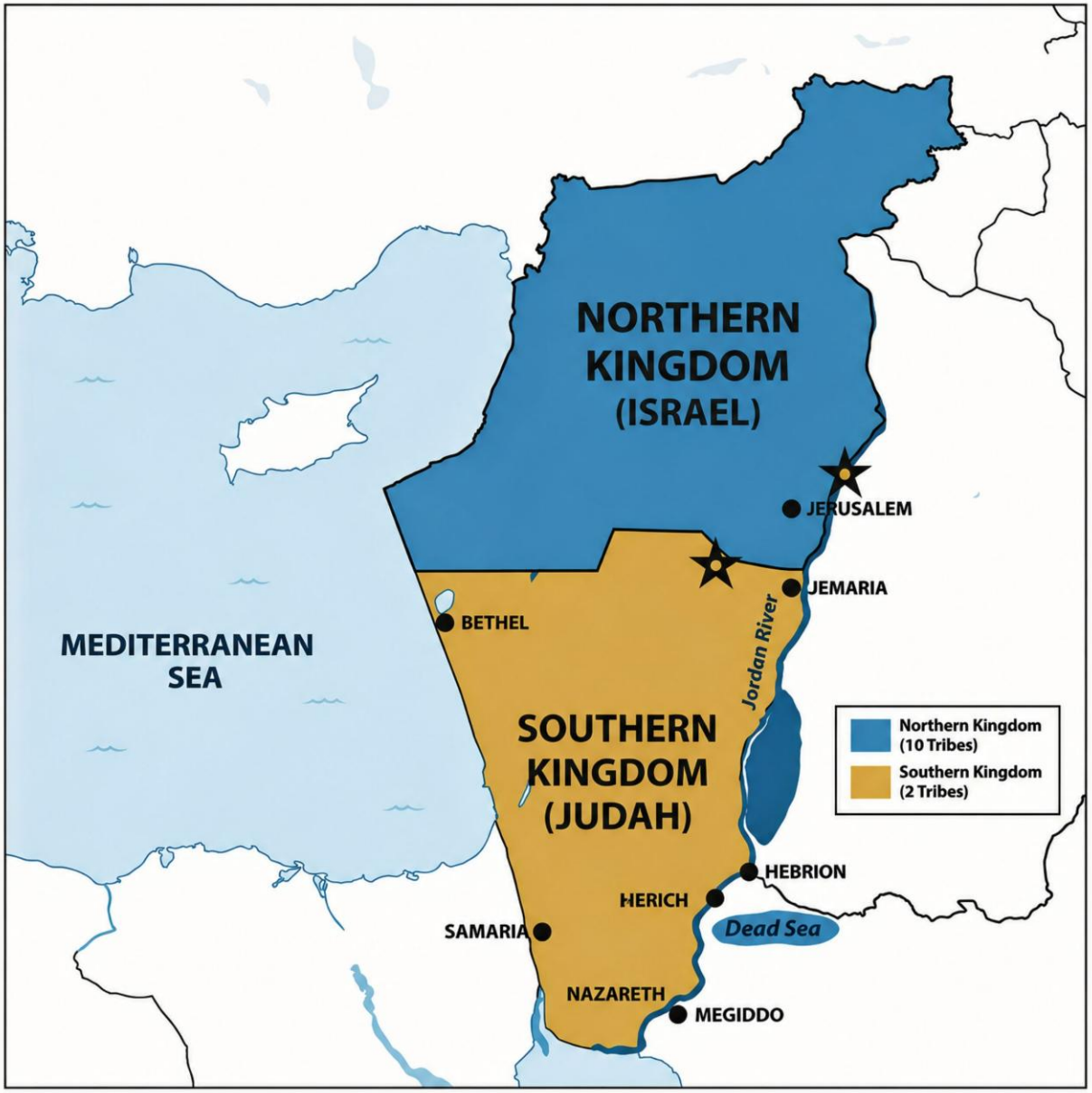
- Capital: **Samaria**
- Fell to **Assyria in 722 BC**
- Never returned – the "Lost Tribes"

🏛️ Southern Kingdom: Judah

2 Tribes

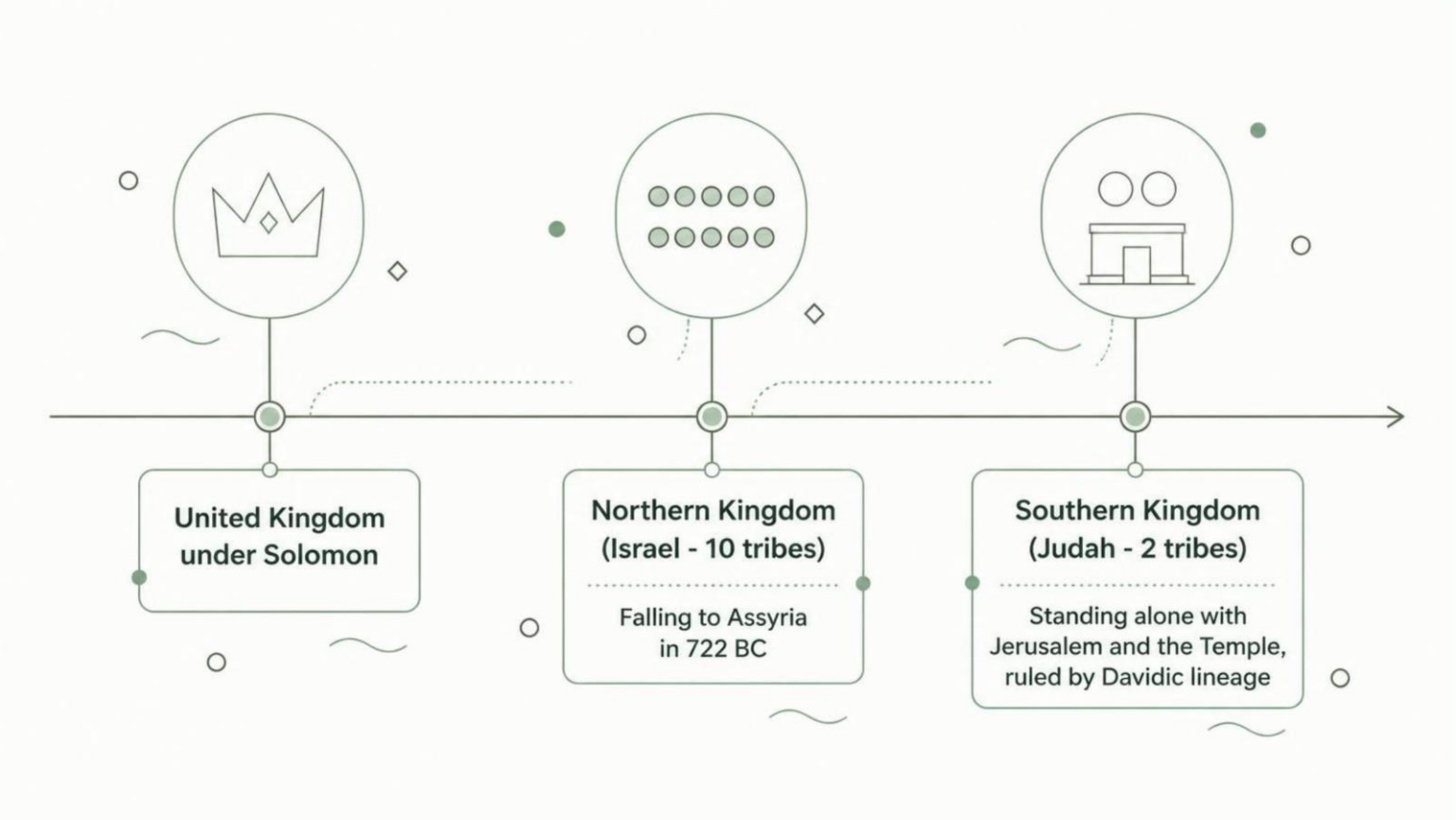
Tribes: Judah & Benjamin

- Capital: **Jerusalem** (home of the Temple)
- Ruled by the **Davidic lineage**
- Survived until **586 BC** (Babylon)


NORTHERN KINGDOM (ISRAEL)
JERUSALEM
JEMARIA
BETHEL
Jordan River
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
SOUTHERN KINGDOM (JUDAH)
Northern Kingdom (10 Tribes)
Southern Kingdom (2 Tribes)
HEBRION
HERICH
Dead Sea
SAMARIA
NAZARETH
MEGIDDO

Context: The Divided Kingdom & Hezekiah's Lineage

To feel the full weight of this moment, we must understand *where Hezekiah came from* and where Judah stood on the map of history. Context is not just background–it is the canvas on which God's miracle is painted.



By the time Sennacherib marched south, the northern kingdom had already been erased from the map. Judah stood entirely alone—a small remnant nation facing an army that had never lost a major siege.

Hezekiah: Light From Darkness

Hezekiah was the son of **King Ahaz**–one of the most wicked kings in Judah's entire history. Ahaz closed the doors of the Temple, built pagan altars on every street corner, and even sacrificed his own children in the fire. The spiritual darkness of his reign was absolute.

A Faithful King

"He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him."– 2 Kings 18:5

A Bold Reformer

Hezekiah broke down the pagan high places, smashed the sacred stones, cut down the Asherah poles, and threw open the doors of the Temple he had inherited closed.

A Spiritual Miracle

Out of one of the darkest households in Judah's royal line, God raised up a man who would become a model of radical, unwavering faith in the face of impossible odds.

Sennacherib's Threats & The Mockery of the Rabshakeh

Sennacherib sent his chief commander, the Rabshakeh, with a massive army to the walls of Jerusalem. Standing in earshot of the frightened people on the city walls, he launched a masterful campaign of psychological warfare.

Undermining Trust

"On whom are you depending, that you rebel against me?" – 2 Kings 18:19.

He targeted Hezekiah's credibility and Judah's confidence first.

Mocking God Openly

"Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria? How then can the Lord deliver Jerusalem?" – 2 Kings 18:33 - 35

The Written Letter

When spoken intimidation wasn't enough, Sennacherib escalated to a formal written letter–warning Hezekiah that God was lying to him and that Jerusalem's fall was inevitable (2 Kings 19:10 - 13).

2 KINGS 19

14Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up
to the temple of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD. 15And Hezekiah
prayed to the LORD: “LORD, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you
alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.
16Give ear, LORD, and hear; open your eyes, LORD, and see; listen to the words
Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God.
17“It is true, LORD, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their
lands. 18They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they
were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands. 19Now, LORD
our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know
that you alone, LORD, are God.”

Laying the Letter Before the Lord – Jesus is waiting

> *"Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the Lord and* ***spread it out before the Lord****."* – 2 Kings 19:14

> ***"Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, Lord, are God."*** – 2 Kings 19:19



Receive **Bring to God** **Pray with Faith**

What Are Your "Sennacherib Letters"?

Medical Diagnosis

A report that says there is no hope. A prognosis that sounds like a death sentence. A condition the doctors call chronic, terminal, or irreversible.

Financial Burden

Past-due bills, sudden job loss, or a mountain of debt that seems impossible to escape. The letter says: *you will not recover from this.*

Broken Relationships

Invisible letters of betrayal from people who were supposed to be by your side. Broken promisses

Internal Accusations

Voices of fear, anxiety, guilt, and shame whispering that God has abandoned you–that you are too far gone, too broken, too unworthy to be rescued.

Altar Call: Give Your Letters to Jesus

> ***"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."*** – 1 Peter 5:7

Today, we are going to do what Hezekiah did. If you came here carrying a burden, a threat, or a situation you cannot solve in your own strength–**that is your letter.**

Come Forward

Bring your fears, your diagnoses, your legal troubles, your financial anxieties, and your family heartbreaks to this altar. Symbolically or literally, write down what is tormenting you–and **spread it out before the Lord**.

Release the Weight

You don't have to carry it out the doors you walked in through. You don't have to defend yourself. You don't have to carry the weight of tomorrow. God fought for Hezekiah, and He will fight for *you*.

Let Him Fight Your Battle

Come lay your "Sennacherib letter" at the feet of Jesus. The same God who answered Hezekiah that night is listening *right now*.

Give it to God!

You are not alone. You are not forgotten. You are not too far gone. The Lord of Hosts is on your side — and He has never lost a battle. Accept him as you Lord and Savior.