
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 4, Bible Truth 7

The Case of the Man with the Big Name 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chronicles 32

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. Long ago, there was a big, big king. His name was big --Sennacherib. His palace was big. His army was big. And his dreams were big. He wanted to take EVERYTHING and be MOST POWERFUL. He wanted to be king over everyone, in every land, including Judah.

2. King Sennacherib especially wanted the biggest, best, and most beautiful city in Judah: Jerusalem. He wanted Jerusalem's lovely Temple, with its beautiful, golden things. He wanted all the other riches in the city, too... and he was coming to get it all.

3. Hezekiah, king of Judah panicked. Hezekiah loved the LORD and knew He was powerful. But he decided to make a money deal with Sennacherib rather than trust in the LORD. "Pay me eleven tons of gold and one ton of silver, and I will leave Jerusalem alone," Sennacherib promised.

4. Why, that would be all the gold and silver in Jerusalem! They would even have to strip the gold off the Temple to come up with enough! But that's exactly what King Hezekiah did, and he sent it all off to Sennacherib. But would that really make Sennacherib happy?

5. No, it wouldn't! Sennacherib had lied. He still wanted Jerusalem and sent in his soldiers: "Your army is too small, and the LORD, your God, can't take care of you. We will destroy your land and take everything," the army leader boasted.

6. King Hezekiah was so upset. But THIS time, he put his trust in the One who was even more powerful than Sennacherib. THIS time, Hezekiah trusted in the LORD!

7. Hezekiah sent for Isaiah, the LORD's messenger. "This is terrible news! But let's pray to the LORD. Perhaps He will help us," Hezekiah exclaimed. "The LORD says: 'Don't be afraid. I will get rid of Sennacherib and his army,'" Isaiah told Hezekiah.

8. Sennacherib's army leader laughed at this. "Don't trust in the LORD, your God. He can't help you!" he shouted. But Hezekiah prayed: "LORD, You can do anything you want to do. Rescue us and show King Sennacherib and his army that You alone are the one, true God."

9. "I will rescue you," the LORD promised. "I will get rid of Sennacherib's soldiers without you having to fight at all." And that's what the LORD did. Overnight, many of King Sennacherib's soldiers were struck dead. The rest ran home, never to return.

10. King Hezekiah and the people praised the LORD. He had beaten the mighty army of King Sennacherib by Himself. Now, King Sennacherib, his army, and everyone else would know that the LORD is the one, true God. He is all-powerful. He can do anything He wants to do.