

# Abstract

The biblical verses of 2 Kings 18–19 mention the military campaign of King Sennacherib of Assyria against Judah in the late 8th century BC. After conquering the fortified cities of Judah, Sennacherib sent an army with envoys from Lachish to Jerusalem, the seat of King Hezekiah. The Judean king cries out to the Lord to spare the city. God hears Hezekiah's prayer and sends an angel who slaughters 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp, and Sennacherib returns to the capital of his empire, Nineveh, where he dies.

The aim of this paper is to compare the texts of the Book of Kings with other biblical and extra-biblical sources and to separate the historical and theological accounts of the verses on the basis of their comparison.

**Keywords:** *Book of Kings, Judea, Israel, Sennacherib, Neo-Assyrian Empire, Hezekiah, Old Testament, Deuteronomistic Theology, Archaeology, Herodotus*