

the great cities except the city of Jerusalem and so the land of Judah was pretty thoroughly devastated by the invasion of King Sennacharib. This King Sennacharib took the cities and the second most important of these cities is the city of Lachish. This is mentioned in both Kings and Chronicles as having been conquered by Sennacharib at this time--this city of Lachish. It is city perhaps not a thousandth as well known ~~xx~~ to Christians in general as Jerusalem, but it is the second most important city in the land of Judah.

After he had conquered part of the land and before he had conquered all that he did conquer we read in Chronicles that Hezekiah took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city. They helped him. So there were gathered much people together who stopped ~~all~~ ^{all} the fountains in the brook that ran through the midst of the land saying, why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water? That is a little interesting incident described here in II Chronicles 32. From the illustration we might derive various spiritual lessons. Certainly we might derive the example of preparedness, getting ready for a situation that is ahead. God does not want us to ~~worry~~ worry. He wants us to trust in Him but He does want us to be prepared for situations that we observe and be ready as far as we can. I think that perhaps there is a greater interest in it to us because of the recent discovery which corroborates this statement here in Chronicles. This statement that the brook that ran through the midst of the land they wanted to stop up saying, why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water? In other words the king of Assyria is coming and they are expecting him to attack Jerusalem. The people in the city of Jerusalem, if they would stand a siege would need as much water ~~a~~ as possible. It is one of the terrific dangers in a siege--running out of water. Then, of course, the king of Assyria will need water for his forces also. Anything that can increase the water for the people in the city and decrease the water to the people outside of the city will be, of course, a real help in the defence of