

sent up to Hezekiah a embassy on at least two occasions to Jerusalem, calling on the people of Jerusalem to surrender and threatening to utterly destroy Jerusalem as they had destroyed other cities far greater and more powerful than Jerusalem. We notice that they were down there for this ~~purpose~~ period of nearly three years. ~~It~~ During all this time the Israelites ^{they} fought every day the invasion might come. The attack and siege of Jerusalem might come at any time. It seemed absolutely hopeless to deliver Jerusalem from them. There was no human means of doing it because their power was so much greater than the power of the people of Judah. .During that time there would be periods when the Israelites could go as much as five or six, perhaps, even ten miles from Jerusalem ~~along the~~ as long as they kept watching for the bands of the Assyrians that were passing through the country and avoided being surprised by one of them. They could go that far and gather whatever grain they could get a hold of and bring it back to Jerusalem but they could not stay long enough to do planting and cultivating, ~~of~~ They could stay just a portion of the day. They would have to spend their nights in Jerusalem, carefully watching lest the siege begin. It was absolutely unsafe outside of it during this period. Then suddenly they heard the news that the enemy had disappeared. They heard the news that thousands of the men had suddenly died with a pestilence or a terrific death, we had better say, brought by a divine means which they had nothing to do with. The angel of the Lord had come. God had predicted it to Isaiah that it would come in about three years and it came. The king Sennacharib was left with no choice but to return to his own city and give up this plan to conquer Jerusalem. He felt doubtless very bad about this and he tried to make all he could of it in his writings where he says that he shut Hezekiah up like a bird in a cage. He ~~mentions~~ ^{mentions} in his writings the amount of tribute which Hezekiah gave him, ~~a~~ ^a large number of talents of gold and talents of silver. The Bible also tells how Hezekiah gave tribute to Sennacharib, but in the biblical account ~~there~~ while the number of talents of gold is