

J. Barton Payne, The Relationship of the Reign of Ahaz to the Accession of Hezekiah,
Bib. Sac., Vol. 126, 1969, p. 40-52.

A final weakness in dating Hezekiah's reign from 726-697 relates to its latter years, with reference to the Assyrian invasion of Sennacherib in 701 B.C. The contention of W.F. Albright and others, that this attack requires a "second campaign" sometime between 689 and 686² seems less significant now, in the light of the possible presence in 701 of the Egyptian Tihakah (Is. 37:9), either while "in his teens"² or "about 20 or 21 years old"³; and in light of Isaiah 36-37 (incorporated into 2 Kings as 18:13-19:37), the natural reading of which suggests but one campaign - in 701.²⁺⁴

Footnotes:

21 (Regarding a second campaign...) Such a campaign cannot be verified from contemporary annals; but its advocates adduce Sennacherib's immediate resumption of hostilities (2 Ki. 18:17) as irreconcilable with Hezekiah's submission and tribute of 701 (v. 16), with the advance of "Tihakah king of Ethiopia" (Isa. 37:9; 2 Ki. 19:9), who was still young in 701 and did not become associated on the throne of the twenty-fifth Dynasty of (Cushite) Egypt until 689 B.C., and with an apparent temporal connection between Sennacherib's defeat and his death (Is. 37:38), which occurred in 681. Yet Assyrian greed for "the goose that laid the golden egg" may explain Sennacherib's renewed hostility; Tihakah could have accompanied the Egyptian armies of 701 and still have become king of Egypt prior to Isaiah's record of chap. 37 shortly after the death of Sennacherib in 681; and even those who would extend Hezekiah's lifetime to 686* grant that Sennacherib's death had still to be five years further into the future.

22 Stanley Gevirtz, Patterns in the Early Poetry of Israel, pp. 31-33. Cf. e.g., the defense of the "second campaign" theory in John Bright, A History of Israel, pp. 282-87.

23 K.A. Kitchen, citing Leclant and Yototte, Ancient Orient and Old Testament, pp. 82-84.

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