

#1073 The Door of Heaven and the Gate of God – The Two Eliakims: The first Eliakim is linked with Sennacherib’s invasion of Judah, while the second Eliakim is linked with Nebuchadnezzar’s invasion of Judah

Two Eliakims

Two Eliakims. In Unsealing [#1069](#), we introduced the *first* Eliakim, who was in charge of the household of Hezekiah, King of Judah, during the invasion of Sennacherib. **The key to the entire subject matter is recognizing the significance of the second Eliakim in relationship to the first Eliakim, and then how all of that impacts the deeper understandings of the “key of David” in Revelation 3:7, and the “open door” into heaven in Revelation 3:8.**

Eliakim. Eliakim means “whom God sets up” or “whom God raises up” or “the Lord raises up.” “El” means Almighty God; “kim”, from the Hebrew *qwm*, means “to rise.”

The first Eliakim

The first Eliakim and Sennacherib’s invasion. The *first* Eliakim during the time of Hezekiah appears to be a disciple or political ally of Isaiah. In Isaiah 22, Isaiah predicts in glowing terms that Eliakim will replace his unworthy predecessor Shebna as the governor of the palace. It was a position of the highest rank, and it existed with similar powers and dignity in both the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah. Control of the royal household and management of the affairs of the palace brought the holder of the office into intimate relations with the king, and placed in his hands the dispensing of much favour and patronage. The palace governor was also one of the principal ministers of State. In general, the idea is that it was a position second only to the king.

The *first* Eliakim, along with the man he replaced, Shebna, who was out of favor with Isaiah and the Lord, was chosen to negotiate for Hezekiah when Sennacherib was threatening Jerusalem.

[Reference Unsealing [#972](#), which includes a map of the invasion of Judah by Sennacherib.]

2 Kings 18:17-18 (KJV) And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsaris and Rabshakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the fuller’s field.

18 And when they had called to the king, there came out to them ELIAKIM the son of Hilkiyah, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder.



A depiction of Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah meeting with Rabshakeh, 2 Kings 18

[Note: The replacement of Shebna with Eliakim apparently occurred before this event.]

Key Understanding: *The second Eliakim.* While the *first* Eliakim was governor of the palace under King Hezekiah of Judah during Sennacherib's invasion in 701 B.C., the *second* Eliakim was actually the King of Judah, like Hezekiah, at the time of Nebuchadnezzar's invasion in 605 B.C.

The second Eliakim

The *second* Eliakim and Nebuchadnezzar's invasion. The *second* Eliakim was the oldest son of the good King Josiah, who was defeated and killed by Pharaoh Necho of Egypt at Meggido around 609 B.C. Upon King Josiah's death, a popular 23-year-old younger brother, Jehoahaz, had assumed the throne, but Necho deposed Jehoahaz after only three months and placed 25-year-old Eliakim on the throne, imposing upon him the new name of Jehoiakim. Some suggest that the new name of "Jehovah raises up" might have been suggested by the young prince himself, but the fact that a change of name took place was nonetheless a token of vassalage to Necho. Jehoiakim, the *second* Eliakim, was an evil, arrogant king, opposed by the prophet Jeremiah. Unlike his father Josiah, Jehoiakim ignored justice and righteousness. He had no intention of obeying the Lord. He "did evil in the sight of the Lord" (2 Kings 23:37). His 11-year reign was filled with abominable acts against the Lord (2 Chronicles 36:8). One of Jehoiakim's acts was burning Jeremiah's prophecies (Jeremiah 36:22-23).



The *second* Eliakim, King Jehoiakim, burning Jeremiah's scroll, Jeremiah 36:23

In 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon would crush Necho's Egypt at the battle of Carchemish on the Euphrates River, and would besiege Jerusalem. The King of Judah at that time was the *second* Eliakim, Jehoiakim.

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