

ambassadors of peace." This is doubtless a reference to the feelings of the men Hezekiah sent to attempt to make an honorable peace with Sennacherib, after they found that Sennacherib would be satisfied with nothing but unconditional surrender and the death of Hezekiah. 2 Chronicles 32:2ff tells how Hezekiah prepared for the expected attack by Sennacherib and how he dug a tunnel to bring water into the city so that the besiegers would not have a plentiful supply outside, while those inside would be able to avoid danger from thirst. Archeology has thrown interesting light on this action of Hezekiah, through the discovery in 1880 of the Siloam inscription, which gives a vivid idea of the haste of Hezekiah's men in building this tunnel in expectation of a terrible attack by the Assyrians.

In verse 2 of chapter 36 it is interesting to note that the place where the envoy of Sennacherib stood to talk to the representatives of Hezekiah was "by the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field." This is the very place to which Isaiah had gone out, some years before, to meet Ahaz and to predict the inevitable results of his alliance with Assyria. Undoubtedly that is why the place is so precisely mentioned both in Isaiah 7:3 and here. What memories must have thronged Isaiah's mind as he saw this terrible drama at the very place where he had predicted the danger a few years before!

A Thrilling Rescue

The attack of the king of Assyria and his repulse by the power of God alone is one of the most thrilling events in all history. Who has not read Byron's poem, "The Assyrian Came Down Like the Wolf on the Fold"?

There are a number of interesting features of this attack which are less commonly known than its outstanding events. Thus the length of time through which the events described in these chapters extended is much longer than is realized by many Bible students, unless they have taken the trouble to read the passage with great care. Some have the impression that the Assyrian army came and attacked Jerusalem, that Isaiah prayed, and that in the following night God destroyed the army. The fact that this is an erroneous foreshortening