

Diamonds in the Dust – 7

The Lay of the Land: Jerusalem's Wall and Water

Mini-History Review (all dates are approx.)

- 1200 BC – Joshua and Jericho; 12 tribes in the land; ruled by the Judges
- 1000 – King David Unites the Kingdom
- 950 – Solomon Builds Temple in Jerusalem
- 900 – Under Rehoboam Country splits into North (Israel-10 tribes—Samaria is capital) and South (Judah 2 tribes—Jerusalem is capital)
- 732 BC – Assyria crushes Israel. 10 tribes either disperse, assimilate with Assyrian conquerors, or flee south. No longer distinct tribes.
- 597 BC – Babylon crushes Judah; “Babylonian Captivity.” Jerusalem and Temple are wrecked.
- 539 BC – Persia crushes Babylon; Jewish captives are allowed to return. Nehemiah rebuilds the walls. Temple is restored.

King Hezekiah

- Ruled from 715–687/6 BC
- Judean King
- Problems Hezekiah faced:
 - Internal faithlessness and spiritual compromise with idols
 - Solution: Return to strict YHWH worship. He saw why Israel fell.
 - Hostile Assyrian Empire
 - Sennacharib of Assyria extorting \$ from Judah
 - An Exposed Capital City
 - Population had grown outside the current city walls from the City of David on Mount Zion. These people had no protection.
- Solution: Build a new wall, enclosing the new population areas.



Note: City of David, Temple, Kidron Valley, Old Wall

Broad Wall Dimensions:

- 2.5 miles long
- 23' thick
- 10' tall



Some of the blocks used in the wall (2.5 miles x 23 feet x 10 tall) came from homes of the poor that were destroyed to make way for the wall.

Isaiah 22:9-10

*On that day you looked to the weapons of the House of the Forest, 9and you saw that there were many breaches in the city of David, and you collected the waters of the lower pool. 10**You counted the houses of Jerusalem, and you broke down the houses to fortify the wall.** 11You made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But you did not look to him who did it, or have regard for him who planned it long ago.....*

Surely this iniquity will not be forgiven you until you die...

<https://www.holylandsite.com/hezekiah-broad-wall> -- Good Background

Excellent Video -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vr5BIEcx-n8&t=159s>

Hezekiah's Third Problem (in addition to idolatry and no city wall):

Gihon Spring –

- Water source for the whole city
- just outside the wall,
- at the based of Mount Zion
- flowed into the Kidron Valley (to irrigate fields)
- invading armies could access that water. No other water source.

Solution: Dig a tunnel from the Gihon Spring to a new reservoir inside the city wall.

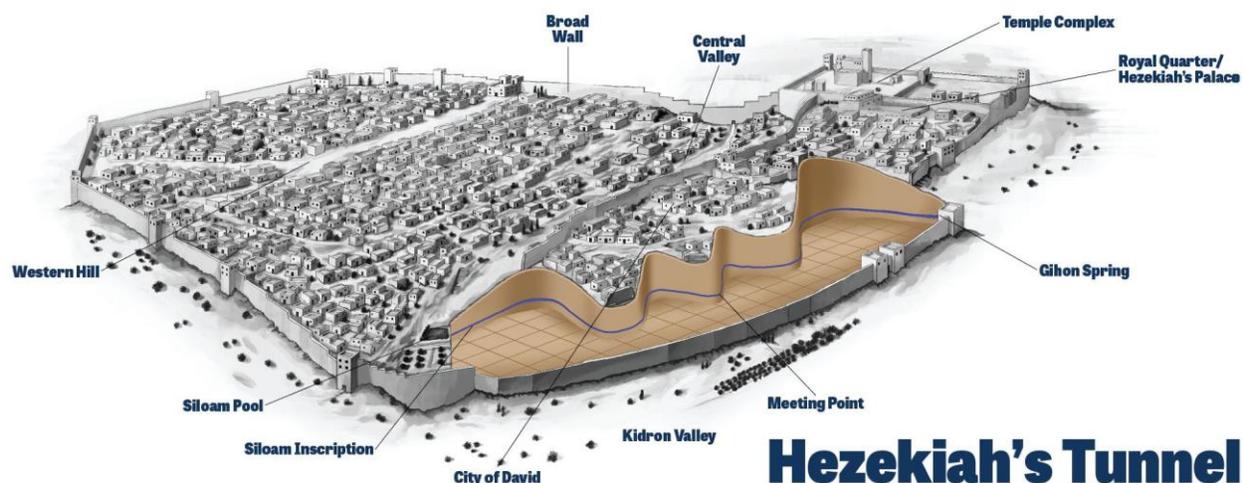
- No digging machinery
- Little time
- Distance to be covered – about 450 meters from point to point. Water has to flow downhill. Even a little rise is a no go.

2 Chronicles 32:2-4

“And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem, He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city: and they did help him. So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land, saying, Why should the kings of Assyria come, and find much water?”

Hezekiah's plan:

- Two groups will dig, one from each end, and meet in the middle. What could go wrong?



End tunnel length – 533 meters.

Siloam Inscription

“... the tunneling [was finished]. And this was the matter of the tunneling: While [the hewers yielded] the ax, each man toward his fellow, and while there were still three cubits to be he[wn], there was hear[d] a man’s voice calling to his fellow, for there was a crack[?] in the rock on the right and [on the left]. And at the end of the tunneling the hewers hacked each man toward his fellow, ax upon ax. And there flowed the waters from the spring toward the reservoir for two hundre[d and] a thousand cubits. And a hu[nd]red cubits was the height of the rock above the head[s] of the hewers.”



Empties into Pool of Siloam. And that empties into underground caverns.



Excellent Video: <https://watchjerusalem.co.il/59-hezekiahs-tunnel> 5:09

Hezekiah's Tunnel in the Biblical Record

2 Chronicles 32:30 -- "This same Hezekiah also stopped the upper watercourse of Gihon, and brought it straight down to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works."

2 Kings 20:20 -- "And the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and how he made a pool, and a conduit, and brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?"

Pool of Siloam in Biblical Record

John 9:1-12 -- 9As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' 3Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. 4We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' 6When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means

Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' 9Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' 10But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' 11He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' 12They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'