



God King: A Story in the Days of King Hezekiah

Joanne Williamson, Daria M. Sockey

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A never-before published tale by the author of the best -selling Hittite Warrior, carries the reader back to Ancient Egypt and biblical Jerusalem. It is 701 B.C - rule of the Kushite dynasty in ancient Egypt. Young Prince Taharka, a very minor royal son, succeeds unexpectedly to the throne of Kush and Egypt - a "divine" rulership. It's not long, however, before a treacherous plot pushes him into sudden exile and into the hands of Amos, an emissary of King Hezekiah seeking help with whom he will fight - the mighty Assyrian, Sennacherib, promising alliance or Hezekiah, the Jew who trusts in Yahweh. A novel inspired by research of the historical King Taharka and period. Includes an introduction with home-education suggestions.

God King: A Story in the Days of King Hezekiah Details

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From Reader Review God King: A Story in the Days of King Hezekiah for online ebook

Stuart says

God King is written by Joanne Williamson and is the second book I have read from Bethlehem Books. The first one I read was Hittite Warrior by the same author. Like Hittite Warrior, God King is part of their Living History Library series. This book, however takes place in the year 701 B.C. during the twenty-fifth dynasty in Egypt, also known as the Kushite dynasty. For perspective on this time in history, Sennacherib was king of Assyria and Hezekiah was king of Judah during this time.

The story begins with peril and excitement. A young boy, Taharka, is on a crocodile hunt with his uncle Embutah and some slaves. Suddenly, a crocodile attacks and severely injures one of the slaves. Using his quick thinking and medical skills he has studied, Taharka is able to save the man. Normally, this kind of heroism would be applauded. However, Taharka is no ordinary boy. He is the son of the pharaoh, who is considered a god in Egypt. Touching a slave was a tabu and made young Taharka unclean. Even though he was one of many children of the pharaoh, and not even a particularly important child, he still knew he would be punished...little did he know what his punishment would be.

Taharka's "punishment" came swiftly. The pharaoh was dying, but before he died an ancient ritual must be performed to choose his successor. Everyone, Taharka included, thought it would be the older boy, Shabataka. Shabataka was groomed nearly his whole life to become the next pharaoh. In a cruel twist of fate, Taharka was "chosen," and his "punishment" was that he must become the new pharaoh. To him this felt like being forced to live in a cage, a prison sentence if you will. With his uncle Embutah and brother Shabataka as his guides, years pass and Taharka begins to get used to being pharaoh. He still doesn't like all the duties that come with it, nor does he feel completely safe with the ever-loomng threat of Assyria to worry about.

I won't give too many more details away, but the action picks up midway through the book, when Assyria threatens to attack Judah and Taharka must decide whether or not Egypt is to assist them or not. This was a well-researched and well-written book. If you look on Wikipedia, you will see that the names are accurate to this time, and the same holds true for the Bible, as you can find reference to Taharka and Assyria in both 2 Kings 19 and Isaiah 37. In the past few months, I have grown to love the writing of Joanne Williamson. I wish I had discovered her as a child, but will make sure my children discover her. I also hope Bethlehem Books will continue to print some of her other works as well.

Robin says

Based on true events, which are then beautifully and thoughtfully embellished, this book is a delight for young adult readers and their parents. Joanne Williamson is an expert at writing historical fiction that really appeals to youth. Her books bring the characters to life, and raise wonderful questions about right and wrong, justice and truth, without being either heavy handed or too simplistic.

Young Taharka is one of dozens of children of the Kushite Pharaoh, but when he is chosen to succeed his father, he finds the job more like a prison. And his older half brother Shabataka is certainly not happy to be set aside as The God King when he fully expected to be chosen as the next Pharaoh. But there are many problems facing the young God King: and the worst of them is the invading army of Assyrians. When he

must escape in the middle of the night from those who would kill him, Taharka's life changes forever. Now on the run, he begins to see the rest of the world. And he must decide, what kind of leader should a man be?

Many things appeal to me in this novel. The author has taken small historical clues and from them tweaked out well-rounded characters and exciting events that are reasonable, if not provable. A strong female character, Shepnuset, with enough fire and spunk to defy the rules laid down for her, is another reason to love this novel. Taharka is both likeable and yet not perfect. This makes him an accessible hero, and one that boys and girls can all connect with. The various religions of the different peoples are all treated with respect. This is not a heavy handed treatise on Christianity at ALL.

But for me, the thing I like best is the way it plants the idea that evil is evil, no matter who is committing it: a stranger, an enemy, or even your own brother. Evil is evil, and if you choose to serve evil, you become evil.

Recommended for strong readers in grade five (about age 9 or 10) all the way up to adults. One scene of city destruction is pretty graphically described. There is no cussing or sex.

Okcatlady29 says

Amazing book. What a great way to get a feel for what was going on in Egypt, Israel and the Middle East during the time of King Hezekiah. I loved how in the end you could look back and see how God used seemingly meaningless events to weave a web. He was in control all along even of the main character who worships the gods of Egypt. Shows a great picture of how God is in control always and puts those in leadership positions that he chooses. I would recommend this book to adults and children alike. Great way to share God with your children and show how He works for the good of those who love Him.

Ebookwormy1 says

A compelling adventure that illuminates Egyptian, Assyrian and Israelite ancient culture. A fun read for children that neither avoids nor indulges in the practice of war in that time.

Parents should be advised this is historical FICTION and teach it as such. Particularly in regard to the main character, an egyptian pharaoh, very little is known of him. Reading the author's note at the end will help to clarify the line between fact and fiction, but also spoils some of the plot.

Bible believing parents should note the main character is not Hezekiah, but an Egyptian pharaoh. As such, he prays to numerous god's for help at various points. While he is intrigued by the Israelite God, he clearly makes no allegiance to Him.

Shannon says

Back Cover:

Reluctant Rule:

"The great god," he said "has become one with his father. See the wand of succession It has declared his choice." The priests, the warriors, the many wives and children, fell upon their knees. Taharka heard again the voice of the sun priest. "Taharka, child of the god, rise." Something cold and smooth was being pressed into his hands. It was the wand of the god. "Take possession of the land, Taharka, Soul of the Hawk, Beautiful Child of Ra, Son of the Sun, Bringer of the Nile, Lord of Kush, Great God of Napata and Meroe, and Pharaoh of Egypt." Taharka had become a god. He has also received his punishment.

It is around 701 B.C. and Egypt is being ruled by the Kushite dynasty. Young Prince Taharka, interested in healing, is content to be the very minor royal son he is and leave the ruling to others. However, it is he and not he expected Prince Shabataka who succeeds to the throne of Kush and Egypt -- a "divine" rulership -- and he is no longer free to live his own life. Then a treacherous plot, long brewing, forces him to flee for his life. Far from home, in the land of Judea, Taharka encounters two kings in conflict. One is the mighty Assyrian, Sennacherib, promising alliance; the other is Hezekiah, the Jew who trusts in Yahweh. Taharka, his own fate and that of his land in the balance, must choose with whom to live or die.

Ages 9-12

twice_baked? says

If you don't like books about religion, you probably shouldn't read this. If you don't mind but you think they're boring, you could try this. It's actually really interesting to read about Bible stories from a different perspective - especially since the person is a king running for his life who is barely mentioned in the Bible.

The religion stuff, whatever. But the adventure is really cool. And the ending is bittersweet which is always nice. And he isn't converted, or anything, it's just that the guy who helps him get away is a Christian - which isn't very obvious in the story, it's kind of slipped in there, but that's about as religious-y as it gets.

Anyywayyy, it's a good book, I really enjoyed it. Four stars.

Honor says

It dragged on for a while, and told you useless information.

Kara says

Another great tale from the author of "Hittite Warrior"! The whole family enjoyed this one! Set around 701 BC, it tells the story of the Assyrians failed attempt to conquer Jerusalem through the eyes of Taharkah, the young pharaoh of Egypt. Taharkah's brother betrays him and usurps the throne, so he flees to Judah with Amos, who is in Egypt as an ambassador of King Hezekiah of Judah. Well written and engaging. We were

inspired to do more research on Hezekiah's Tunnel after reading the exciting account of Taharkah and Amos's trip through it as they snuck into the besieged city. The kids were engrossed in the story and it really brought these historical events to life!

Anne says

Well written and engaging story of Egyptian royalty and dangers therein. Highlights the hand of God and how He uses even non-believers and their trials to bless His people. There are some edge-of-your-seat moments here. Fantastic read! There was hardly a night when we didn't read more than was assigned.

Olivia says

A never-before published tale by the author of the best-selling Hittite Warrior, carries the reader back to Ancient Egypt and biblical Jerusalem. It is 701 B.C.-rule of the Kushite dynasty in ancient Egypt. Young Prince Taharka, a very minor royal son, succeeds unexpectedly to the throne of Kush and Egypt-a divine rulership. It's not long, however, before a treacherous plot pushes him into sudden exile and into the hands of Amos, an emissary of King Hezekiah seeking help against the Assyrians. Posing as a medical assistant, Taharka journeys with Amos to Judea where he encounters two kings in conflict. His true identity suddenly uncovered, he must choose with whom he will fight-the mighty Assyrian, Sennacherib, promising alliance or Hezekiah, the Jew who trusts in Yahweh. A novel inspired by research on the historical King Taharka and his period. Book Details: Format: Paperback Publication Date: 1/1/2002 Pages: 206 Reading Level: Age 10 and Up (less)

I liked this a whole lot more than Hittite Warrior!

Shelly♥ says

I loved this book. I read it with my kiddos in homeschool. It is the story of Taharka, a boy Pharaoh by accident and his brother's attempt to dethrone him as the deadly Assyrians are threatening all parts of the region. Amos, a messenger from Judah, comes to solicit the boy Pharaoh's assistance just as the trouble begins brewing.

We read a chapter a day. Towards the end, it was very difficult for me to "wait" to find out what happened. It's a great book to blend the biblical and historical events in that area at the time. My 7 y.o. really enjoyed it, too.

Ashlynn Carpenter says

I have been reading this for school and I have one chapter left and I'm about to finish it's great an the lat chapter where shabataka had been stripped of the gold and crown and had mercy from taharka it's a great story!! I give it five stars!

Sarah says

God King by Joanne Williamson is about a boy named Taharka who is chosen to be the Pharaoh of Egypt, which he thought felt like being a prisoner. Yet many people believed that his brother Shabataka should have become king, and Taharka has to flee for his life. But he isn't safe, for he then gets caught up with the fight between the Jews and Assyrians.

Overall this book wasn't bad. The characters were more or less likable (Shepnuset and Sabi were my favorites). The book was well written. I recommend it to anyone who enjoys historical fiction that takes place in ancient times.

Angela R. Watts says

Good book!

Manning says

Taharka is one of the many sons of Pharaoh. As his father is dying, the pharaoh chooses him to be the next God King. Shocked by his father's decision, Taharka is quickly sent into training to become a great pharaoh. But, his older brother, Shabatak, didn't like that he wasn't chosen. So, he started a plot to over-rule his brother. Taharka flees from the palace and has to live life like a peasant until he can regain his rightful heir. As Taharka dodges assassins and King Sennacherib's Assyrian armies, and allies with Hezekiah, King of the Isrealites, he fights to save his loved ones.
