

9/4/11

**Hezekiah Trusted In God**  
**2Kings 19:1-37**

It is 701 B.C. and Sennacherib, the king of Assyria has invaded the land of Judah, in response to Hezekiah's prosperous reign and coalition of rebellious threat.

1. Hezekiah's reign over Judah began in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, inheriting a wicked kingdom from his evil father, Ahaz. 1Kings 18:1-2

\* Ahaz had made his children pass through the fire, in the worship of Molech. 2Kings. 16:3

2. Hezekiah's name means "Yahweh is my strength" and he was 25 years old when he became king and reigned for 29 years in Jerusalem. vs. 2

3. Hezekiah was a good king and did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all his father David. 2Kings 18:3-4

4. Hezekiah removed all the high places, pillars, wooden images and broke the brass serpent of Moses. 2King. 18:4

5. Hezekiah was a man of faith, trusting and holding fast to the God of Israel, so God was with him and prospered him. 2kings 18:5-7

a. He encouraged his military captains saying, "Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for

there are more with us than with him."  
2Chron. 32:7

b. Azariah told Asa, "The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you." 2Chron. 15:2

We want to look at the account of the king of Assyria, Sennacherib, who sent some of his officers to Jerusalem, in order to have Hezekiah surrender to him, focusing on the response of Hezekiah, which is characterized by three things:

- I. The wisdom of Hezekiah. vs. 1-13
- II. The prayer of Hezekiah. vs. 14-28
- III. The promise to Hezekiah. vs. 29-37

**I. The wisdom of Hezekiah. 2Kings 1-13**

A. King Hezekiah humbled himself before God. vs. 1

1. He expressed his grief over the words of Rabshakeh, indicated by the phrase, And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it." vs. 1a-b

a. The specific words are found in the previous chapter, spoken by the Tartan, the field marshal or general, Rabsaris. the chief eunuch and Rabshakeh, the chief cupbearer was the speaker, as they stood by the

- aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller's field. vs. 17
- b. They had called to the king, but Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to them. vs. 18
  - c. His confidence in Egypt to help him against Assyria had been discovered by the King of Assyria and was told him Egypt was like a broken reed, ending up adding to his hurt. vs. 19-21
  - d. Also challenging their trust in God, since Hezekiah had torn down the altars of the high places. vs. 22
  - e. Claiming God had sent them to destroy Jerusalem and the land. vs. 25
  - f. Warning to let Hezekiah deceive the people to trust the Lord to deliver them from the hand of the King of Assyria. vs. 28-29
  - g. Boasting in the fact that none of the gods of the other nations were able to deliver them. vs. 33-34
    - \* The pagan altars came to be identified with the worship of God by the compromise of the kings.
2. He demonstrated his grief in a very visible manner. vs. 1c-e

- a. He tore his clothes, a sign of grief and lamentation.
  - b. He covered himself with coarse ruff sackcloth, as a sign of humiliation.
  - c. He went into the house of the LORD, a sign of his desperation, remember Hezekiah led a great revival and declared many reforms from his first year. 2Chron. 29-31
    - \* He witness Shalmaneser king of Assyria besiege Samaria and in three years took it captive for not obeying the Lord, in the sixth year of his reign. 2kings 18:9-12
- B. King Hezekiah sent his cabinet members to humble themselves before Isaiah the prophet. vs. 2
    1. Hezekiah sent Eliakim, who *was* over the household. vs. 2a
      - a. Elkiakim "Elyaquym", means God raises or God sets up.
      - b. Eliakim was over the household affairs of Hezekiah.
    2. Shebna the scribe. vs. 2b
      - a. Shebna "shebna", means vigour.
      - b. Shebna was a scribe, the recorder official documents, etc, the secretary of state.
    3. The elders of the priests. vs. 2c
      - a. Those who performed service to God.
      - b. Those who had much life experience.

4. Every one of these men were sent covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz. vs. 2d-f
  - a. Expressing their grief, as king Hezekiah and brokenness.
  - b. Isaiah prophesied from the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, 740 B.C.-680 B.C. , about sixty years.
  - c. Isaiah warned constantly of the coming judgment by God and gives a detailed account of this particular period. Is. 36-39, 2Chron. 29-32  
\* Hosea, Joel, Micah, possibly Obediah, were also were prophets at this time!

**C.** King Hezekiah's words expressed the crisis to Isaiah the prophet. vs. 3-5

1. Acknowledging the time of national peril of their own doing. vs. 3
  - a. Being chastened by God by the mocking and insults God, "And they said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah: 'This day is a day of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy.'" vs. 3a-e  
\* A day of distress and correction and rejection by God that they might repent. Hos. 5:9-15
  - b. Being unable to survive, "for the children have come to birth, but there

is no strength to bring them forth." vs. 3f-g

2. Acknowledging their need of God's help. vs. 4-5
  - a. In hope that Yahweh had taken note of the blasphemous insults directed at Him, "It may be that the LORD your God will hear all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God." vs. 4a-b  
\* "Your God", Isaiah was one with God!
  - b. In hope of Yahweh's retaliation, "and will rebuke the words which the LORD your God has heard." vs. 4c
  - c. In hope of Isaiah's intercession for the godly remnant. "Therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left." vs. 4d
  - d. The summary statement, "So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah." vs. 5

**D.** King Hezekiah was given an answer by Isaiah the prophet. vs. 6-7

1. God said they were not to fear the blasphemous words of Sennacherib, the King of Assyria. vs. 6
  - a. The authority was divine. Straight from heaven, "And Isaiah said to

them, “Thus you shall say to your master, ‘Thus says the LORD.’” vs. 6a-c

**b.** The words were against Yahweh, “Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.” vs. 6d-e

**2.** God said He would handle the king of Assyria. vs. 7

**a.** God would cause him go back to Assyria, “Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land.”

\* We will see how this was fulfilled!

**b.** God would cause his death, “and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.” vs. 7c

\* Indicating his assassination!

**E.** King Hezekiah received a second message from the king of Assyria. vs. 8-13

**1.** At the same time Hezekiah was seeking God’s help through Isaiah, Rabshakeh returned back to camp, “Then *the* Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah, for he heard that he had departed from Lachish.” vs. 8

**a.** Lachish was about 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

**b.** Libnah was about 7 miles north-east of Lachish.

**2.** At the same time Sennacherib was sidetracked from Jerusalem, without doubt by the providence of God, “And the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, “Look, he has come out to make war with you.” vs. 9a-b

\* Just as prophesied, Egypt came to aid the Philistines in the city of Ekron. vs. 7a-b

**3.** At the same time Sennacherib wanted to re-enforce his intimidating fear on Hezekiah, to not be attacked by Hezekiah from the rear, “So he again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying.” vs. 9c-d

**4.** By repeating arrogant words against God. vs. 10-13

**a.** Charging Yahweh with being a deceiver, “Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying: ‘Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, “Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.”’” vs. 10

**b.** Rebuking Hezekiah with ignoring the successful history of Assyria, “Look! You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by

utterly destroying them; and shall you be delivered?" vs. 11

- c. Challenging Yahweh, "Have the gods of the nations delivered those whom my fathers have destroyed, Gozan and Haran and Rezep, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar?" vs. 12  
\* The area of northern Mesopotamia.
- d. Intimidating Hezekiah, "Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah?" vs. 13

### Illustration

"Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." Lk. 18:9-14

\* Humility leads to wisdom!

### Application

1. Oh how we need to take all things to God in prayer.
  - a. Regardless of how small or large it may be, according to our estimation.
  - b. Regardless of person, be they believer or unbeliever.
  - c. Regardless of threat or intentions.
    - \* Nehemiah prayed what seemed impossible for him, "O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the **prayer** of Your servant, and to the **prayer** of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." For I was the king's cupbearer." Neh. 1:11
2. There are so many things that are completely out of our control or we have very little control.
  - a. The need of a job and holding on to it, to provide for the family.
  - b. The times when things are hard and difficult financially and you are calling to God, knowing you are at your wits end.
  - c. The pleading with God over your children, in view of the influence of those they spend time in school and the indoctrination of schools against Christianity.
    - \* "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with

thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:6-7

*The wisdom of Hezekiah was in not looking to Himself, but God!*

## II. The prayer of Hezekiah. 2Kings 14-28

### A. Hezekiah himself petitioned God. vs. 14-19

1. Hezekiah presented before God the blasphemous words of Sennacherib. vs. 14
  - a. Consisting in a letter, “And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it.” vs. 14a-b
  - b. Revealing the words, “and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.” vs. 14c-d
2. Hezekiah approached acknowledging the unique greatness of God. vs. 15
  - a. He was the covenant God of Israel, “Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: “O LORD God of Israel.” vs. 15a-c
  - b. He was on His throne in heaven, “the One who dwells between the cherubim.” vs. 15d

- c. He was the Only God ruling, “You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth.” vs. 15e-g
  - d. He was the Creator, “You have made heaven and earth.” vs. 15h
3. Hezekiah pleaded with God. vs. 16
    - a. He begged Yahweh to listen to the blasphemous words of Sennacherib, “Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.” vs. 16  
\* Opposed to the dead idol gods!
    - b. He confessed the victories of Assyria, “Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands.” vs. 17
    - c. He recognized the reason, the gods of the heathen are dead idols, “and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men’s hands--wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them.” vs. 18
    - d. He requested their deliverance for His glory. “Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone.” vs. 19

- B.** Hezekiah received an answer from God, through Isaiah. vs. 20-28
- 1.** The God of Israel, Yahweh, accepted the petition of Hezekiah. vs. 20
    - a.** The message was from the throne of heaven, “Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel.” vs. 20a-c
    - b.** The reason, “Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard.” vs. 20d-e
  - 2.** The words of Yahweh to King Sennacherib. vs. 21-28
    - a.** God pointed out the outcome would be the reverse, Judah would be untouched, “This is the word which the LORD has spoken concerning him: ‘The virgin, the daughter of Zion, Has despised you, laughed you to scorn; The daughter of Jerusalem Has shaken her head behind your back!’” vs. 21
    - b.** God pointed out his arrogance was against God, not the people, “Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice, And lifted up your eyes on high? Against the Holy One of Israel.” vs. 22

- \* A phrase often used by Isaiah for God, 27 times, only 5 in the rest of Scripture!
- c.** God pointed out his boast in his military, “By your messengers you have reproached the Lord, And said: “By the multitude of my chariots I have come up to the height of the mountains, To the limits of Lebanon; I will cut down its tall cedars And its choice cypress trees; I will enter the extremity of its borders, To its fruitful forest. I have dug and drunk strange water, And with the soles of my feet I have dried up All the brooks of defense.” vs. 23-24
  - d.** God pointed out that Sennacherib was merely the instrument of God, “Did you not hear long ago How I made it, From ancient times that I formed it? Now I have brought it to pass, That you should be For crushing fortified cities into heaps of ruins.” vs. 25  
\* Isaiah confirms this truth. Is. 10:5-12
  - e.** God pointed out He was the reason for Sennacherib’s success, “Therefore their inhabitants had little power; They were dismayed and confounded; They were as the grass of the field And the green herb, As the grass on the housetops And grain blighted before it is grown.” vs. 26

- f. God pointed out His Omniscience, “But I know your dwelling place, Your going out and your coming in, And your rage against Me.” vs. 27
- g. God pointed out He was in control of leaders in history, including him and would defeat him, “Because your rage against Me and your tumult Have come up to My ears, Therefore I will put My hook in your nose And My bridle in your lips, And I will turn you back By the way which you came.” vs. 28
  - \* Hook in the nose was a custom of taking away captives. Amos 4:2

### Illustration

E.M. Bounds said, “He who does not pray, therefore, robs himself of God's help and places God where He can not help man”.

### Application

1. The early church understood the importance of prayer.
  - a. “These all continued with one accord in **prayer** and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” Acts 1:14
  - b. “Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of **prayer**, the ninth hour.” Acts 3:1

- c. “but we will give ourselves continually to **prayer** and to the ministry of the word.” Acts 6:4
  - d. “and said, ‘Cornelius, your **prayer** has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.’” Acts 10:31
  - e. “Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant **prayer** was offered to God for him by the church.” Acts 12:5
  - f. “And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where **prayer** was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there.” Acts 16:13
  - g. “Now it happened, as we went to **prayer**, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.” Acts 16:16
2. Some of you have prayed for friends and love ones to be saved.
    - a. We have seen husbands and wives saved that were adamantly opposed to God and the gospel.
    - b. We have seen teen-agers and young people who were so far from God, repent of their sins to become incredible witnesses for God.
    - c. We as the leaders of the church have witnessed the incredible transformation and maturity in so many of you, throughout the thirty-plus years.



\* God told Jeremiah, as he was doubting God, “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” Jer. 33:3

3. Some of you have prayed to God when you were sick and He answered you.

- a. We have witnessed miraculous healings over some of your physical body, Amy Kenz, Wendi Henagraph, my broken neck.
- b. We have witnessed God’s answer to your healing through the hands of a doctor.
- c. We have witness God’s answer to some to be “no healing” and He took them home.
- d. But in every case God answered prayer.

\* “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” Jer. 29:11-13

*The prayer of Hezekiah was answered by God!*

### III. The promise to Hezekiah. 2Kings 19:29-37

- A. Hezekiah was promised by God the people would still be present in three years. vs. 29-31

1. They would be around by their distinct ability to so and reap their crops. vs. 29
  - a. The first year, “This shall be a sign to you: You shall eat this year such as grows of itself.” vs. 29a-b
  - b. The next year, “And in the second year what springs from the same.” vs. 29c
  - c. The following year, “Also in the third year sow and reap, Plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them.” vs. 29d-e
    - \* They had been harassed and oppressed continually, unable to work their fields.
2. They would see Jerusalem retain her inhabitants. vs. 30
  - a. Her faithful remnant, “And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward.” vs. 30a
  - b. Her obedient people, “And bear fruit upward.” vs. 30b
3. They would see God fulfill it. vs. 31
  - a. The remnant of Judah and Benjamin, “For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, And those who escape from Mount Zion.” vs. 31a-b
  - b. By the Captain of the armies of heaven,” The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.” vs. 31c

- B.** Hezekiah was promised by God the city would be protected by Him. vs. 32-34
- 1.** The prophecy was very specific, not a general one. vs. 32
    - a.** It regard Sennacherib, “Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria.” vs. 32a
    - b.** It regarded Jerusalem, they would not occupy it, “He shall not come into this city.” vs. 32b
    - c.** It regarded army, not one would fire a shot, “Nor shoot an arrow there.” vs. 32c
    - d.** It regarded usual tactics for advancement, they would not storm the city, “Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it.” vs. 32d-e
  - 2.** The prophecy declared the withdrawal of Sennacherib. vs. 33
    - a.** By the same route, “By the way that he came, By the same shall he return.” vs. 33a-b
    - b.** Bi-passing Jerusalem, “And he shall not come into this city.” vs. 33c
    - c.** By the authority and word of Yahweh, “Says the LORD.” vs. 33d
  - 3.** The prophecy would be fulfilled by God Himself. vs. 34
    - a.** The protection confirmed, “For I will defend this city.” vs. 34a

- b.** The explanation declared, “to save it For My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.” vs. 34b
- C.** Hezekiah witnessed the promise of God come true. vs. 35-37
- 1.** Through the agency of an angel. vs. 35
    - a.** Yahweh chose the particular night, “And it came to pass on a certain night.” vs. 35a
    - b.** Yahweh chose the particular angel, “that the angel of the LORD went out.” vs. 35a
    - c.** Yahweh chose the particular number to be slain, “and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand.” vs. 35b
      - \* Herodotus refers to an infestation of mice at the Pilusium when these vermin nibbled the quivers, bowstrings, and shield handles.
    - d.** Yahweh chose a few of the Assyrians to witness the power of the God of Judah, “and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses-all dead.” vs. 35c-d
      - \* This is recorded in three accounts, I believer, so as to bring no doubt to it. 2Chron. 32:21, Is. 37:36
  - 2.** Through the departure of Sennacherib. vs. 36

- a. Seeing visibly him depart, “So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away.” vs. 36a
- b. Hearing of his arrival, “returned home, and remained at Nineveh.” vs. 36b-c
- 3. Through the death of Sennacherib. vs. 37
  - a. The occasion was as he was being religious, “Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the temple of Nisroch his god.” vs. 37a
  - b. The situation was family treachery by assassination, “that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword.” vs. 37b  
\* Just as prophesied, 20 years later, 681 B.C. 2kings 19:7
  - c. The revelation was they got away with it, “and they escaped into the land of Ararat.” vs. 37c
  - d. The succession of Sennacherib was by one of his sons, “Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.” vs. 37d
    - 1) He was the youngest son and was opposed by the older brothers, but to no avail!
    - 2) Animosity and hatred was so great that Ahurbanipal, Esarhaddon’s son and successor, had to deal with his uncles who were still resentful

because Sennacherib had bypassed them.

### Illustration

Just as clouds are no guarantee of rain unless the right conditions are present, so prayer apart from the biblical conditions of repentance, prayer is mere presumptuousness and empty words, but with humble repentance, we have the promises of God!

### Application

1. At times when we go to prayer God may impress on our hearts the certainty and sure hope of what we are asking for, but it may not come for a long time.
  - a. God’s will and God’s timing, are two different things.
  - b. God’s will is perfect and so is His timing.
  - c. The difficulty lies in my trusting and resting in God, despite my feelings, doubts and impatience.  
\* “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His **will**, He hears us.” 1Jn. 5:14
2. God’s will is found in God’s word.
  - a. If I am going to know how to pray.
  - b. If I am going to know what I can pray for.
  - c. If I am going to know why I should pray.
  - d. I must know the word of God, for the will of God is found in the word of God!

\* “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Josh. 1:8

3. The promises of God to His children through prayer are as good as the person making the promise.

- a. God is holy.
- b. God is just and good.
- c. God is Omnipotent, all powerful.
- d. God is Omniscient, all knowing.
- e. God is Omnipresent, all present, at the same time.
- f. God is Sovereign, without violating His attributes.

\* Therefore God can not lie, “God *is* not a man, that He should **lie**, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” Num. 23:19

***The promise to Hezekiah brought glory to God!***

### **Conclusion**

The account of the king of Assyria, who sent his military officers to Jerusalem, in order to have

Hezekiah surrender to him, focusing on the response of Hezekiah was characterized by:

- I. The wisdom of Hezekiah was in not looking to Himself, but God!
- II. The prayer of Hezekiah was answered by God!
- III. The promise to Hezekiah brought glory to God!