

Yahweh of Hosts

SMALL GROUP NOTES

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Scripture

Isaiah 37:14-16

Scripture context

Judah is facing the might of the Assyrians. They have routed other nations and are taunting Hezekiah, the king of Judah, that he shouldn't put his trust in Yahweh to deliver him because he isn't able. The nation is on the cusp of being overwhelmed. A huge Assyrian army are encamped waiting to attack. Hezekiah cries out to 'Yahweh of Hosts' to deliver them. And He does!

Did you know?

- This narrative can also be found in 2 Kings 18-19
- Hezekiah means 'Yahweh is (my) strength.'
- The death of 185,000 Assyrians in one night is the largest number of battle casualties recorded in the Bible. And not one sword was swung, nor one man involved.

Question for study and discussion

1. What does the name 'Lord of hosts' tell us about the power and might of God?
2. In this story, one angel wipes out 185,000 Assyrians and yet elsewhere angels are described as veiling their eyes before Yahweh. How does that make you feel?
3. How big is your view of God and does that equip or constrain you in your day to day life? What can we learn from Hezekiah's prayer (37:16-20) to help us cultivate a fuller view of God?
4. The Lord intervenes to rescue Israel when it looked like they were going to be overwhelmed by their enemies. In what areas of your life do you feel overwhelmed? Pray with one another and ask God to breakthrough.

Digging Deeper

Paul writes in Ephesians 6:12 that 'we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against...the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.' How aware of the spiritual battle we are in and what weapons do we have to fight it?

Resources for further study / devotion

Incomparable; Explorations in the character of God, by Andrew Wilson.

Knowing God, J.I. Packer, Chapter 8: The majesty of God

Demolishing Strongholds, David Devonish