

II Kings 18-19 – 10 November 2022

“In The Face Of All Evil”

Introduction

- *Israel was divided in 931 BC into north (Israel) & south (Judah)
- *Israel in the north has been taken into Assyrian captivity mostly into territory of the Medes (Iran)
- *Only Judah (w/ Ben) remain w/ its capital Jerusalem
- *We made a big point that NO kings in Israel did right in the sight of the Lord out of 19 total kings
- *Now Hezekiah takes the throne in Judah just 6 years before the final collapse of Israel in the north
- *He begins his reign watching his brothers in north be destroyed & watches as the Assyrian empire rises
- *How will Hezekiah serve God in the face of all evil?
- *So, here's 3 qualities of relationship w/ God we should have while staring into the face of all evil**

1st quality of relationship: Cleave to God & He'll prosper you (Chap 18:1-12)

Read Vs 1-4

1. Removing idols involves removing everything that we trust above God
2. Bronze serpent was used of God, but not needed
 - a. It was used as a point of faith, focusing the people on the God that had it made
 - b. It had become a point worship *in & of itself*
 - c. “I have faith” - Object of our faith matters
 - d. True object of our faith has always been God Himself (Read John 3:14-15)

Read Vs 5-6

1. Showing our love & trust in God is proven and shown when we live a life of obedience to Him

Read Vs 7-8

1. Why and how did he prosper?
 - a. B/c he trusted and obeyed the Lord

- b. Prospered in fulfilling the Lord's will of having the land (this wasn't his will but God's)
- c. We can know we'll prosper while following His will and His ways

Read Vs 9-12

- 1. All the while Israel is falling into captivity, Judah prospers b/c of clinging to the Lord

But the enemy's not done: The enemy attacks with lies & deception (Chap 18:13-37)

Read Vs 13

- 1. 4 Assyrian kings to know
 - a. Tiglath-Pileser – Galilee Conquest
 - b. Shalmaneser – Besieged Samaria
 - c. Sargon – Completed Samaria's Conquest
 - d. Sennacherib – Attacks Judah

Read Vs 14-16

- 1. Lachish: city of Judah occupied by Sennacherib

2. Doesn't seem right to take the gold straight from God's house and give to the foreign oppressor
3. As we see next, doing tribute money & service to the enemy is never enough for him, he now wants all

Read Vs 17-20

1. That IS the question, "In whom are we trusting"?
2. There's spiritual war, we will choose a side
 - a. We'll all be seen as rebels at some point against someone
 - b. Choose to rebel against evil

Read Vs 21-22

1. The enemy wants us to doubt our strength to stand against them
 - a. They think we trust in man (Egypt) & material things
 - b. They misunderstand our relationship w/ God

Read Vs 23-25

1. Bribed to do evil (vs 23-24), and lying that the Lord told them to take over Judah

Read Vs 26-27

1. Rab-shakeh promotes that he's trying to instigate a rebellion from within Judah

Read Vs 28-30

1. Enemy tells the people – don't trust in Hezekiah as he trusts in the Lord

Read Vs 31-32

1. Enemy tells the people – I'll make your life materially prosper...just in a new way

Read Vs 33-35

1. Enemy tells the people – No god has been able to stand against Assyria, therefore, none can (lie)

Read Vs 36-37

1. So the people wisely don't answer the enemy until they process & pray

2nd quality of relationship: Communicate w/ God & listen for answers (Chap 19:1-7)

Read Vs 1-5

1. Hezekiah immediately turns to the Lord in faith and to His prophets that hold his revelation, great!

Read Vs 6-7

1. The promise from God to deliver!

But the enemy's not done: The enemy is persistent (Chap 19:8-13)

Read Vs 8-9

1. Assyria went to the next town of Judah closer to Jerusalem (Libnah) but heard that Egypt was marching against him
2. This made it urgent for Assyria to get the victory in Jerusalem

Read Vs 10-13

1. Judah, you're bucking the norm, you're fighting the majority, just succumb to the pressure

3rd quality of relationship: Cast your care on the Lord & watch Him work (Chap 19:14-37)

Read Vs 14-19

1. We're told to cast our cares on God
 - a. Read I Pet 5:6-7 - That's right thinking!
2. He says, You are the one true Creator God
3. He agrees, other gods were defeated but it's b/c they were false gods
 - a. When the enemy says the truth...agree
4. He asks God to do this for His glory & honor

Read Vs 20-28

1. God replies Sennacherib is just being used as a tool in God's hands
2. God says He'll turn him back when He chooses
3. Read Isa 10:15

Read Vs 29-31

1. God replies that a remnant from Jerusalem will survive and then thrive

Read Vs 32-34

1. God replies that Jerusalem will not fall

Read Vs 35-37

1. Sennacherib tried explaining away the loss, but didn't work – His acct written on clay prism
2. When God moves, you don't need a big long explanation, just that God did it!
 - a. Don't explain it scientifically, logically
 - i. Well, how did God speak & create things?
 - b. It's a miracle of supernatural proportions!

Conclusion

So, “in the face of all evil”, what do we do?

1. **Cleave to God & watch Him prosper you**
 - a. Trust Him & obey what you know is right
 - b. Expect enemy to attack w/ lies & deception
2. **Communicate w/ God & listen for answers**
 - a. Come to God w/ specific praises & requests
 - b. But be ready for the enemy to be persistent
3. **Cast your cares on God & watch Him work**
 - a. Allow God to work in whatever is His way
 - b. Be ready to rejoice when God breaks thru!