



Psalm 46:1–2 (King James Version)

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

II Chronicles 32:1–8 (paraphrase)

One morning King Hezekiah woke up, dressed, and went for a walk. As he walked along the city wall, he noticed something outside Jerusalem. He looked carefully and saw that the king of Assyria was camped outside. King Hezekiah could see the soldier's tents, and he knew they had come to fight him.

King Hezekiah called a meeting with the princes and mighty men. "The Assyrian army is camped outside our city. We should gather rocks and dirt to stop the water fountains and the stream. That way the Assyrians will not find water."

All the people helped to stop the water supply. Then King Hezekiah said, "We must make our city strong. Let's repair the broken places in the walls and raise the walls higher. We will make them high like the towers at the corners of the walls." ² Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.

The people repaired the walls. They made darts and shields to fight the enemy. Then King Hezekiah assigned captains over the people. Everyone gathered in the streets near the city gate to hear the king's words.

"Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid of the king of Assyria and his large army. There are more with us than with him because his army is made only of men, but we have the Lord God with us. God will help us and fight our battles."

The people were encouraged and believed King Hezekiah's words. They knew that God was their strength and would help in their battles. They knew God would lead them to victory.

