

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to 2 Kings 19

We have been going verse by verse through this amazing book that God has given to us –

A historical book that reveals to us God's true nature: His mercy, His amazing grace, His longsuffering, His holiness, His yearning to want to have a relationship with those that He created -

And through our studies for the past couple of months, we have seen how the Kingdom of Israel and Judah responded to God's nature.

For the most part, they responded in rebellion.

They chose their own will over God's will.

Now, in our study last week, we came upon one of the few good kings of the southern kingdom (Judah) – Hezekiah.

And even though he was a godly king, and even though the scriptures tell us that the Lord was with him, Hezekiah still faced attacks from the enemy.

Judah was facing an imminent attack by the Assyrians – the same guys that had taken the Northern Kingdom captive.

And we saw some of the tactics that the enemy uses last week -

Deception

Distortion

Doubt

Fear and despair.

You see, the enemy doesn't want to fight – he simply want us to raise the white flag / to surrender.

He wants to take away all our hope.

In our study this morning, we are going to see how Hezekiah responds to these attacks

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Church – some of us here this morning are going through a season where we are feeling overwhelmed, for those that are not – just wait.

Where do we go when we life overwhelms us?

Hezekiah will show us the way.

Let's pray...

[2Ki 19:1-37 NKJV] 1 And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard [it], that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and **went into the house of the LORD.**

So in our study last week, the king of Assyria sent a delegation into Jerusalem to discourage the people of Judah.

You can't win

You don't even have the man power to engage us in battle

God can't help you

Just -take the easy way out and quit.

And this is the same thing that the enemy whispers in our ears when it comes to our marriage, our struggles with the flesh and our walk with the Lord.

It's a lot easier to quit – everything will be much easier if you do – that is the message of the enemy.

Hezekiah – gets word from his delegation and they tell him what was said –

And I first want you to notice what he didn't do –

He didn't go to the people and say, "We need to collect more gold and silver – maybe we can appease the king of Assyria and he will leave us alone"

After all, that is what the previous kings had done and that is what he had attempted to do in his early years.

He didn't say, "I need to make an alliance with another pagan nation to see if they can help us or maybe their gods can help us"

Again, that is what the previous kings had done.

He humbled himself and went directly to the One who could actually help. He went directly to the Lord.

**[Psa 46:1-5 NKJV] 1 To the Chief Musician. [A Psalm] of the sons of Korah. A Song for Alamoth. God [is] our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3 [Though] its waters roar [and] be troubled, [Though] the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah 4 [There is] a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy [place] of the tabernacle of the Most High. 5 God [is] in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.**

We have a tendency to always exhaust our resources first and then turn to God in prayer as our last resort.

Turning to God in prayer should be our first resort.

And that is what King Hezekiah did.

2 Then he sent Eliakim, who [was] over the household, Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz. 3 And they said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah: 'This day [is] a day of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy; **for the children have come to birth, but [there is] no strength to bring them forth.** 4 '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, and will rebuke the words which the LORD your God has heard. **Therefore lift up [your] prayer for the remnant that is left.'** "

After going to the House of the Lord – we see Hezekiah send word to the prophet Isaiah.

I mentioned last week that Hezekiah's father was a wicked king – that it was most likely that his godly influence came from him constantly seeking Isaiah.

So he sends word to Isaiah – and I had you make a note where he says that the children have come to birth, but [there is] no strength to bring them forth.

The picture here is of a woman going into labor and after a long, painful and exhausting labor – she has finally run out of strength. And because there is no doctor to deliver the child, it is most likely that she will die.

So Hezekiah is saying – "Isaiah, Judah is at the end of their rope – they are the woman in labor who is about to die"

Church, throughout scripture, we see that God specializes in rope ends.

Sometimes we have to get to the point where we run out of strength before we finally come to God for help.

We need to come to the end of our rope to be able to see God's deliverance.

Remember, the Children of Israel when they came to the Red Sea – they were cornered, you had the sea in front of them, you had mountains on both sides and the Egyptian army closing in on them – they were at the end of their rope – it was until then, that they saw the Red Sea part.

If there was no awesome Assyrian army strangling Jerusalem, then there would never have been the great deliverance that they're about to see.

Another thing that Hezekiah asks for from Isaiah – pray for us.

Church, whenever we are overwhelmed, we need to set aside our pride and ask others to pray alongside us.

If Apostle Paul ( who by the way, wrote 13 books in the NT and God mightily to share the gospel) if he felt the need to ask for prayers in his letter to the churches in Ephesus, Philippi and Colosse – then so should we too.

**5 So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah. 6 And Isaiah said to them,**

**"Thus you shall say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: "Do not be afraid of**

the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me. 7 "Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land." ' "

God's message to Hezekiah, through the prophet Isaiah.

"Hezekiah, do not be afraid, I am in complete control and will take care of Assyria in the most amazing way"

8 Then [the] Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah, for he heard that he had departed from Lachish. 9 And the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, "Look, he has come out to make war with you." So he again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, 10 "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." 11 'Look! You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by utterly destroying them; and shall you be delivered? 12 'Have the gods of the nations delivered those whom my fathers have destroyed, Gozan and Haran and Rezeph, and the people of Eden who [were] in Telassar? 13 'Where [is] the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah?' "

So as Assyria is about to siege Jerusalem, the Egyptian army who were under the reign of Ethiopia – they come up from the south to make war with Assyria and the King of Assyria sends some of his troops to fight them.

And in the meantime, he sends his messenger again to Hezekiah to once again, discourage him.

Once we take care of Egypt, we are coming after you. This hasn't changed anything.

**14 And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read**

**it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the**

**LORD.** **15 Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD God of**

**Israel, [the One] who dwells [between] the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of**

**all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.** **16 "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. 17 "Truly, LORD, the**

**kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, 18 "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. 19 "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."**

I first want you to notice that when Hezekiah received the letter and read it – he didn't consult with his officials to see what they had to say – he went directly to the Lord and spread it before Him.

The idea of spreading it before the Lord is allowing Him to take care of it as He pleases and in His timing. It's His problem.

He didn't tell the Lord what to do.

He didn't offer to give God some advice on how to handle the situation either.

By the way, that is something that we often find ourselves doing. Somehow we don't think that God sees our situation as clearly as we do.

He simply lays the letters at His feet and says, For Your glory, Lord, do something"

He starts off his prayer with praising God, Hezekiah knew his place as king but he also knew God's place as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Hezekiah was a king of a nation, but God was creator and king over all things whether in heaven or earth, whether things that can be seen or the unseen. He is sovereign almighty God, who is worthy of every praise and all glory.

**He also prayed with confidence.** – "incline Your ear"

Church, do we pray with confidence?

**[Mic 7:7 NKJV] 7 Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.**

**[1Jo 5:14-15 NKJV] 14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**

It is only by having an intimate relationship with Him, it is only by having His word in our hearts – His will, that we will be able to offer prayers with confidence.

And the scriptures tell us that He will be able to do beyond what we ask or request.

Hezekiah also had confidence in his prayer because he never lost sight of how big his God is.

When we begin to realize just how awesomely powerful God is, that He is in control, that we actually have access to Him through Jesus Christ, and that He is OUR God, the problems don't seem quite so overwhelming anymore.

As big as Assyria was – God is way bigger.

**20 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard.' 21 "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! 22 '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.**

God's message to the King of Assyria –

You mess with Judah. You mess with My kids – you mess with Me.

I know they are spoiled little brats and have many shortcomings and have rejected my correction, but I alone discipline them.

**23 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. 24 I have dug and drunk strange water, And with the soles of my feet I have dried up All the brooks of defense." 25 '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. 26 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. 27 'But I know your dwelling place, Your going out and your**

**coming in, And your rage against Me. 28 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.**

King of Assyria – you don't know who you are messing with.

In Isaiah 10 –

We have a similar warning to the Assyrians -

**15 Shall the ax boast itself against him who chops with it? [Or] shall the saw exalt itself against him who saws with it? As if a rod could wield [itself] against those who lift it up, [Or] as if a staff could lift up, [as if it were] not wood!**

The Assyrians thought they were greater God.

So the Lord tells them that He knows where they live – and in the same manner that they conquered nations and ran fish hooks through them to take them captive, the same thing was going to happen to them.

The Assyrians failed to see that all that they had – had come from the Lord.

They had become prideful and they were going to be judged.

**29 'This [shall be] a sign to you: You shall eat this year such as grows of itself, And in the second year what springs from the same; Also in the third year sow and reap, Plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them. 30 And the remnant who have**

**escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward, And bear fruit upward. 31 For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, And those who escape from Mount Zion. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.'**

Here in verse 29, this promise is made to Hezekiah –

After He has delivered them from the hands of the Assyrians, they will live off the land for two years and it will be after the harvest in the third year that they will be able to eat abundantly.

This will be proof that God delivered them

**32 "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: 'He shall not come into this city, Nor shoot an arrow there, Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it. 33 By the way that he came, By the same shall he return; And he shall not come into this city,' Says the LORD. 34 'For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'**

Hezekiah, the Assyrians are not going to fire a single arrow into Jerusalem.

I will defend the city.

Not because my people are good – Judah deserved judgment

Not because they are worthy to be saved

But for My name's sake and for David's

And this is speaking of the Davidic covenant – the promise that God made with David.

In the same way, God the Father defends and blesses us, not for our own sake – we often deserve His judgment – but He often does it for His own sake, and for the sake of the greater David (Jesus Christ our Lord)

**" 35 And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when [people] arose early in the morning, there were the corpses--all dead.**

Here we have the deliverance

One night

One angel

185,000 dead Assyrian soldiers.

**[Hos 1:7 NKJV] 7 Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, Will save them by the LORD their God, And will not save them by bow, Nor by sword or battle, By horses or horsemen."**

This event is very similar to the deliverance of the Children of Israel from Egypt – you might remember that all the 1<sup>st</sup> born Egyptians were killed the night of the first Passover.

The unstoppable Assyrian war machine had been stopped & not by another army but by one angel from God.

**36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned [home], and remained at Nineveh. 37 Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the temple of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.**

Show picture of Taylor's prism.

This is a picture of Taylor's prism – Taylor was the archeologist who found this artifact.

The real name of it is Sennacherib's prism.

And it sits in the British Museum to this day.

It was found in the ruins of the ancient city of Nineveh.

And it is the Assyrian record of Sennacherib's reign and conquests.

And it includes Sennacherib's boast -

It says, "I attacked Hezekiah of Judah who had not subjected himself to me, and took 46 fortresses, forts and small cities.

I carried away captive 200,150 people, big and small, both male and female, a multitude of horses, young bulls, donkeys, camels, and oxen.

Hezekiah himself I locked up in Jerusalem like a bird in its cage.

What's interesting about this is that in his boast he admits he failed to conquer Jerusalem.

The siege never took place because his army was decimated by divine judgment and he was forced to go home where he suffered the supreme indignity of being murdered by his own children.

Church, God brings deliverance in different ways.

It doesn't always happen overnight.

He doesn't always make the problems disappear.

But He is watching over us and is taking care of us.

**[Psa 91:14 NLT] 14 The LORD says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name.**

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 'May the LORD bless you and protect you. 25 May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. 26 May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'