

**Hezekiah's Faith**  
**II Kings 18-19**  
**6-7-15PM**

Hezekiah was king of Judah during the 8<sup>th</sup> century. If we wanted to sum up the nature of this man, we can do so with two verses: "He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel; so that after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among those who were before him. For he clung to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses" (2 Kings 18:5-6).

There are several important events in the life of King Hezekiah that are a valuable study for a Christian. He restored the worship of Israel by repairing the temple, restoring the priesthood, and restarting the lost Passover. He also has a remarkable prayer to God when he was told he was dying, and God restored his health. Here our purpose points to the third remarkable event: the spiritual warfare Hezekiah waged when the Assyrian army surrounded Jerusalem.

<sup>1</sup>The Assyrian Empire was the most powerful empire in the history of the world at that time. Their war machine had conquered most of the civilized world, and in II Kings 18 we read about how they had just conquered the kingdom of Israel in the north. Now the Assyrian king Sennacherib had moved his army to surround Jerusalem, having wiped out the entire defense structure (the fortified cities in II Kings 18:13) of the tiny kingdom of Judah. It is the case that only the city of Jerusalem remained. Sennacherib's own chronicle would recall how his siege resulted in Hezekiah being shut up in Jerusalem "like a caged bird".

What is remarkable is how Hezekiah responded. He did not attempt to negotiate or to beg aid from other nations like Egypt. Instead he prostrated himself before the Lord in the Temple and prayed. 2 Kings 19:1-19 record Hezekiah's spiritual warfare. When his prayers (he did this twice) were done, God brought a destruction on the Assyrians unparalleled in history: 185,000 men were found dead in the morning by the Angel of the Lord. This God delivered Hezekiah.

Our Lesson in Faith is three-fold. First: just as Hezekiah understood, we need to understand that there are consequences to our actions. Hezekiah said that this problem was their rebuke (2 Kings 19:3). He never said "I do not deserve this", because he knew that Judah had behaved faithless in the past. Second, we need to see that Hezekiah does not trust in strength of arms (things he can see) to stand firm. His ancestor David made this mistake in I Chronicles 21. Hezekiah knew that the battle belonged to the Lord. We ought to trust God will watch over us, as He has committed Himself to our needs (Matthew 6:25). As a church, we ought not to worry about what we face (Revelation 2:10) or how we grow (I Corinthians 3:7). Third, faith requires us to act in trust with it. We are asked to believe many things by faith alone; some of these are fundamentals of our faith, such as the resurrection (Hebrews 6:2). We need to live our lives by this faith, for works is not faith (James 2)

Our lesson in faith from Hezekiah is that we need to learn to cast our fate before God. Consider Psalm 55:22: Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.



*Sennecharib's Records*

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia