

Where to go, what to do...when the Enemy threatens you!

2 Kings 18:28 – 19:20 King Hezekiah faced with a dilemma.

- ◆ Hezekiah was a godly king... he loved the Lord and strives to serve Him in all of his ways. *The Gospel of Matthew lists Hezekiah in the genealogy of Jesus* (Matt. 1:9-10)
 - ◆ Proving that **hard times** and **difficult situations** arise in the lives of those who serve God!
- ◆ Hezekiah was not willing to court the favor of the Assyrian kings.
 - ◆ He was a king that wouldn't compromise his domain. (*that kind of stuff ticks the devil off*)
- ◆ Isaiah warned Hezekiah not to become involved with Assyria (Isa. 20:1-6). The critical time for Hezekiah came in 705 B.C. when Sennacherib became king of Assyria. From Hezekiah, Sennacherib obtained a heavy tribute of silver and gold. In 701 B.C., Sennacherib had besieged Lachish. Aware that Hezekiah had trusted God for deliverance, Sennacherib sent messengers to the Jerusalem wall to urge the people to surrender.
- *We learn a lot about how the devil will work to overtake you while you are striving to govern your life under the rule of God's Word.*
 - Hezekiah was a good king who was trying to bring about **reform** in the nation of Israel. In the midst of trying to order his life aright, the enemy comes with a **threat of destruction**.
 - If the enemy was *successful at intimidating* this king into submission, by weakening his resolve, it would set the nation back 25 years – **it would undo all that the King had tried to accomplish.**

**This story reveals how the devil will work to undermine our relationship with God
by trying to ambush our faith,
by bringing threatening circumstances into our lives.**

3 Phase plan of the enemy to weaken your resolve!

➤ Offend your Trust!

2 Kings 18:28 (NLT) Then he stood and shouted in Hebrew to the people on the wall, "Listen to this message from the great king of Assyria!²⁹ This is what the king says: Don't let King Hezekiah deceive you. He will never be able to rescue you from my power.³⁰ Don't let him **fool you into trusting in the LORD** by saying, '*The LORD will rescue us! This city will never be handed over to the Assyrian king.*'

➤ Offer his Terms!

31 "Don't listen to Hezekiah! **These are the terms the king of Assyria is offering:** Make peace with me--open the gates and come out. Then I will allow each of you to continue eating from your own garden and drinking from your own well.³² Then I will arrange to take you to another land like this one--a country with bountiful harvests of grain and wine, bread and vineyards, olive trees and honey--a land of plenty. Choose life instead of death! "Don't listen to Hezekiah when he tries to mislead you by saying, 'The LORD will rescue us!'

➤ **Oppose the Truth!**

33 Have the gods of any other nations ever saved their people from the king of Assyria?
 34 What happened to the gods of Hamath and Arpad? And what about the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Did they rescue Samaria from my power? 35 What god of any nation has ever been able to save its people from my power? Name just one! **So what makes you think that the LORD can rescue Jerusalem?"**

Does that sound like your experience with the **father of lies** and the *enemy* of your soul?

• **How did the nation Israel respond?**

2Kings 18: 36 But the people were silent and did not answer because Hezekiah had told them not to speak. 37 Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, the palace administrator, Shebna the court secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the royal historian, went back to Hezekiah. They tore their clothes in despair, and they went in to see the king and told him what the Assyrian representative had said.

19:1 When King Hezekiah heard their report, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the Temple of the LORD to pray.

➤ *Hezekiah* means: "to be courageously strong in the Lord"!

4 Things that the King did...

- ◆ **heard their report** – No point in denying the realities of the situation.
- ◆ **tore his clothes** - A sign of repentance
- ◆ **put on sackcloth** – (coarse goats' -hair clothing) symbolizing self-affliction & despair.
- An Outward sign of an Inward emotion!
- ◆ **went into the Temple of the LORD to pray** – The only way to handle difficulty.

The prayer went up, the answer came back.

2 Kings 19:5 After King Hezekiah's officials delivered the king's message to Isaiah, (6) the prophet replied, "Say to your master, *This is what the LORD says: Do not be disturbed by this blasphemous speech against me from the Assyrian king's messengers.*⁷ **Listen! I myself will move against him,** and the king will receive a report from Assyria telling him that he is needed at home. Then I will make him want to return to his land, (KJV) *and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land."*

➤ **Important to notice:**

- *There may be a space of time between the devil making his move and God shutting him down.*
- Until that time comes, the devil may keep sending out threats against you and your situation.
- He will even try to cause you to look to the *history of others* as a means of comparison!

What we must remember is that if others fell, then God was not included.

If God be for me (if He goes before me) who can stand against Him?

8 Meanwhile, the Assyrian representative left Jerusalem and went to consult his king, who had left Lachish and was attacking Libnah.⁹ Soon afterward King Sennacherib

received word that King Tirhakah of Ethiopia was leading an army to fight against him. Before leaving to meet the attack, he sent this message back to Hezekiah in Jerusalem:

14 After Hezekiah received the letter and read it, he went up to the Lord's Temple and spread it out before the LORD.

15 And Hezekiah prayed this prayer before the LORD: "*O LORD, God of Israel, you are enthroned between the mighty cherubim! You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the earth. You alone created the heavens and the earth.*" 16 *Listen to me, O LORD, and hear! Open your eyes, O LORD, and see! Listen to Sennacherib's words of defiance against the living God.* 17 *"It is true, LORD, that the kings of Assyria have destroyed all these nations, just as the message says.*" 18 *And they have thrown the gods of these nations into the fire and burned them. But of course the Assyrians could destroy them! They were not gods at all--only idols of wood and stone shaped by human hands.* 19 *Now, O LORD our God, rescue us from his power; then all the kingdoms of the earth will know that you alone, O LORD, are God.*" 20 Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent this message to Hezekiah: "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: **I have heard your prayer** about King Sennacherib of Assyria.

➤ **Hezekiah's prayer (19:14-19)**

- When the king had **received... and read** Sennacherib's message which had been carried to him by **messengers** (cf. v. 9) he returned **to the temple** to *pray again*.

➤ **Maturity lesson 101:**

**In most instances of your life, you may have to take
your matters to the Lord more than once!
Once is rarely enough!**

➤ **His prayer included:**

- *A recognition of God's sovereignty.* (v. 15)
 - ⇒ The king recognized that God is a Spirit, not a piece of wood or stone (cf. 2 Kings 19:18). He **alone** (cf. v. 19) was the real Ruler of Judah, the Sovereign **over all the kingdoms of the earth** including Assyria, and the all-powerful Creator of **heaven and earth**.

→ **As You Pray...Don't lose sight of who is receiving your Prayer!**

*...the Sovereign over all the kingdoms of the earth including Assyria,
and the all-powerful Creator of heaven and earth.*

- *Mention of the defiance of the Assyrians.* (vv. 16-18)
 - ➔ Tell God just what is going down!
 - ➔ This isn't anytime for flowery speech... *just tell it like it is!*
- *A request for deliverance.*
 - James 4:2 "You have not, because you ask not."
 - Mat. 7: 7 (NLT) "Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened.

➤ **God's Response to Hezekiah's Prayer:**

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| 1. Do not be disturbed. (vs 6) | Gave: Consolation |
| 2. I myself will move against him. (vs 7) | Confidence |
| 3. I have heard your prayer. (vs 20) | Confirmation |

➤ **Did God come through? ...Yes!**

2 Kings 19: 32 "And this is what the LORD says about the king of Assyria: His armies will not enter Jerusalem to shoot their arrows. They will not march outside its gates with their shields and build banks of earth against its walls.³³ The king will return to his own country by the road on which he came. He will not enter this city, says the LORD.³⁴ For my own honor and for the sake of my servant David, I will defend it." 35 That night the angel of the LORD went out to the Assyrian camp and killed 185,000 Assyrian troops. When the surviving Assyrians woke up the next morning, they found corpses everywhere. 36 Then King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp and returned to his own land. He went home to his capital of Nineveh and stayed there.³⁷ One day while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer killed him with their swords.

➤ **How do you deal with the negative reports from the enemy?**

A. *Receive the Report.*

- (Don't **deny** -- just **defy** the Lie!)

B. *Refuse to let you circumstances overwhelm your faith.*

- (**Stand** by what you **know**, **NOT** what you've **heard**)

C. *Repent before God.*

- (Don't let **anything** stand between you and God!)

D. *Reside in a Place of Prayer.*

- (**Stay** until you **hear** what God has to **say**!)

E. *Resign the details to the Lord.*

- (**Let Go** and **Let God**)

F. *Return to your business.*

- (The Father is **working it out**!)

The devil is a loud-mouth punk who wants to intimidate the faith right out of you!

*He wants to handle you in Scare
God wants you to handle him in Prayer!*

God will fight for you as you turn it over to Him!