



The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 33

“Trusting God (Sort of)”

Study: 2 Chronicles 32:1-8, 2 Kings 18:13-16

Reading: Matthew 6:19-24, Joshua 24:14-27

Memory: Romans 8:15

One of the hardest parts of being a leader is delegating responsibilities to others. Ideally, a leader gives responsibilities to others and lets them take care of it without having to worry about it. The problem that many leaders face is that they don't fully trust the person they have delegated their responsibilities to. Some leaders will often tell their delegates they trust them 100%, but then go behind that person's back to make sure that everything is taken care of. It is easy to say you trust someone, but it is another thing to fully trust them.

Today, we are going to see how Hezekiah declared he trusted God, but his actions showed otherwise.

What Does the Bible Say?

The much dreaded Assyrian invasion had started in Judah. Sennacherib had attacked and started to conquer many of the cities in Judah. Since Hezekiah knew this fight was going to ultimately be decided in Jerusalem, they spent a great deal of time building up walls and strengthening their defenses. One of the ways they decided to protect themselves was to divert their main water supply. At that time, the spring of Gihon came from outside the city and flowed into the city. In order to ensure that the Assyrians could not stop this stream, they began work on a tunnel to redirect the stream under the city and made a pool for it to flow into. This pool existed in the days of Jesus and was known as the pool of Siloam. They also built a new outside wall and strengthened up the weak areas. It is unclear exactly what the Millo (vs 5) was. We know it was in the city of David and had something to do with part of their defenses. Hezekiah also ordered that a great deal of weapons be made in preparation for a battle (2 Chr 32:1-5).

When all this work was done, he gathered the people together and encouraged them as they were facing an impending siege. He challenged the people not to be afraid of the Assyrian army, declaring that the people of Judah had the upper hand. This didn't mean that Jerusalem had more

or stronger warriors, but meant that God was on their side. The Assyrians had the stronger army physically speaking, but God was going to fight their battles for them. This message from Hezekiah greatly encouraged the people and helped ease some of their fears (2 Chr 32:6-8).

Though he did this in front of the people, Hezekiah also secretly feared Sennacherib and decided to try to bribe him into leaving them alone. Hezekiah sent a message to Sennacherib stating that he had been wrong by not submitting to the Assyrian's demands. He was willing to submit to the king if they spared Jerusalem from destruction. Sennacherib asked for gold and silver from the people of Jerusalem. Hezekiah then went to the treasury in the temple and took gold and silver from it. He also removed the gold doorposts of the temple and gave them to the Assyrians. Though Hezekiah had given the Assyrians great treasure, it did not stop their invasion. Basically, all he did was help finance his enemies and helped provide what they needed for a greater attack on Jerusalem (2 Kin 18:13-16).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Can you see yourself in Hezekiah? Hezekiah presented great boldness and trust in God and encouraged the people to do the same, yet at the same time, he also feared the Assyrians and tried to pay them tribute to leave Jerusalem alone. I can see myself doing this many times. I say and declare that I trust God and am depending on Him, while at the same time I am trying to work things out through my human effort. Sadly, just like Hezekiah, when I take things into my own hands I often strengthen the enemy and his attacks on me. In Hezekiah's attempt to deliver Jerusalem through His own human effort, he simply gave them more of what they needed to continue the invasion and attack. You are often given the same choice. The question is "Will you choose to completely trust God or will you also try to rely on your human ability?"

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you trust Him completely.*

Thought for the day

2 Chronicles 32

What did God allow to happen to Judah even after they were faithful to Him (vs 1)?

What does this show you about God's working even though you have been faithful to Him?

Why did Sennacherib attack (vs 1)?

What did Hezekiah know was coming to Jerusalem (vs 2)?

What did Hezekiah decide to do (vs 3-4)?

Why was this very important to help them in their effort to outlast the siege of the Assyrians?

What did Hezekiah order to be constructed (vs 5)?

What else did he do to prepare for battle (vs 5)?

How do we know the balance between putting human effort into preparing for something and trusting God?

What did Hezekiah tell the people (vs 6-8)?

Why was this such a powerful message?

2 Kings 18

What did Sennacherib do (vs 13)?

What did Hezekiah do (vs 14)?

What did Sennacherib ask for (vs 14)?

What did Hezekiah give him (vs 15-16)? Why?

Why do you think Hezekiah told the people of Jerusalem to trust God, but then he didn't and tried to pay off Assyria? How can you do the same?

“Encouraging Doubt”

Study: 2 Kings 18:17-22, Is 36:1-7, 2 Chr 32:9-15

Reading: 2 Timothy 1:3-14

Memory: Romans 8:15

For several years, I had a crack in the window of a van we would use for a few weeks out of the year for our youth camps and other family events. Each winter, I would do my best to park it in places where water would not get into the crack in the windshield. The crack would pretty much remain the same size, unless the water got in the crack and froze. The freezing, thawing and re-freezing process would cause that water in the crack to expand and create a larger crack. I didn't want to have to replace the windshield so I tried to be extremely careful and keep that crack protected.

Today, we are going to see how the Assyrians wanted to expand the cracks in the faith of the inhabitants of Jerusalem in attempt to get them to rebel against Hezekiah.

What Does the Bible Say?

While Sennacherib was at the city of Lachich he sent some of his top officials to Jerusalem with vast armies to besiege the city and attempt to talk them into surrendering. Lachich was located about 40 miles southwest of Jerusalem and was most likely one of the last cities in Jerusalem for Sennacherib to conquer before he would attempt to conquer the capital city of Jerusalem. The leader of Assyria met with ambassadors from Jerusalem. Both 2 Kings and Isaiah give descriptions of the specific place where they met. This is because it would have been a busy place outside the city where many of the inhabitants would meet to wash their clothes. It also would have been close to the city walls. Most likely this spot was chosen by the Assyrians so that some of the inhabitants of Jerusalem could hear their threats (2 Kin 18:17-18, Is 36:2-3, 2 Chr 32:9).

The Rabshakeh (probably not a proper name, but the name for a commander) asked these men, most likely so many could hear him, what they were trusting in. This message was for Hezekiah and for all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. He declared that the words of Hezekiah and his talk about the power of God would not be enough to fend off the most

powerful nation in the world. The people would not be able to trust in the power of Egypt because the Pharaoh would take their money and run. The Pharaoh was compared to a broken rod which would cut the hand of those who touched it (2 Kin 18:19-21, Is 36:4-6, 2 Chr 32:10)

If the people of Jerusalem chose to lock themselves up in the city, they would die of starvation. The Rabshakeh tried to convince them that Hezekiah was misleading them and they would be far better off if they surrendered. Hezekiah was encouraging them to trust in God to deliver them. The argument the Rabshakeh used was that Hezekiah made them their down the high places and altars they used to worship their gods. Hezekiah had limited them to one altar and to worship only one God. It was a common belief in those days that you needed the help of multiple gods and that one god would just be too weak to help a nation (2 Kin 18:22, Is 36:7, 2 Chr 32:10-12).

The Rabshakeh declared that the nation of Assyria had not been stopped by the multiple gods of other lands. Since the other gods couldn't help the conquered, certainly the one God of Israel would have no chance to stand against the great power of the Assyrians. Once again he told them not to believe in Hezekiah because the words he declared about the God of Israel were just empty words. There was no way that the God of Israel could win (2 Chr 32:13-15).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you get discouraged when people doubt or question the power of your God? Do you find yourself doubting when God takes a while to act and gives opportunity to question your God? One of the things that makes the victory that God was going to give so great is the way that the Assyrians antagonized the people of Jerusalem. The harder the circumstances, the greater the victory. This is easy to forget because many times we don't want to face difficult circumstances, but when those difficulties come, it just gives God a greater avenue to glorify Himself. Don't let the world or the enemy convince you that you can't trust God. They will mock and scorn, especially when things are going well for them and bad for you, yet history over and over records how God stood up for His people. He will help you just as He helped the people of Jerusalem. Don't allow the enemy to crack open your faith and cause you to doubt the love and power of God. God is not like anything of this world. The things of this world will fail you, but God will never fail you.

Who did Sennacherib send to Jerusalem (2 Kin 18:17)?

Why do you think they chose the spot they did (2 Kin 18:17)?

Who did they call for? Who came to meet them (2 Kin 18:18)?

What was clear about what they were attempting to do at this meeting (2 Kin 18:19)?

What did they say about the words of Hezekiah (2 Kin 18:20)?

Why do you think they said this?

Who were they challenged not to trust in (2 Kin 18:21)?

How was the Pharaoh described (2 Kin 18:21)?

What did they declare about Hezekiah (2 Chr 32:11)?

What did they say was going to happen (2 Chr 32:11)?

How do you see some people question spiritual leaders like this today?

What did they say Hezekiah had done (2 Chr 32:12)?

What proof did the Assyrians attempt to use (2 Chr 32:13-14)?

How do those who are enemies of God attempt to do the same thing today?

What did they emphasize about Hezekiah's leadership (2 Chr 32:15)?

Why do you think Satan wants you to doubt godly leaders?

What did the Assyrians say God could not do (2 Chr 32:15)?

Why were they so badly mistaken?

“Focused on Weakness”

Study: 2 Kings 18:23-27, Isaiah 36:8-12, 2 Chronicles 32:16-19

Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Matthew 19:23-30

Memory: Romans 8:15

I have found in my life that I am much more hard on myself when I do something foolish than when others around me do something foolish. I am often very patient with others when they do something like lock their keys in their car, but when I do something like that, it often really bothers me. Much of this is a result of my selfish pride because I expect others to do foolish things, but don't expect myself to do those things. God often uses these moments of weakness in my life to show Himself in a mighty way and remind me that I am nothing in my own power and strength, but that He wants to be everything to me through my weaknesses.

What Does the Bible Say?

The messengers of Assyria weren't quietly speaking with the ambassadors from Jerusalem, but were loudly talking so many of the inhabitants of Jerusalem who were on the wall listening to their conversation could hear and be afraid. They made continuous derogatory remarks about Hezekiah and continued to put down the God of Israel. They were attempting to make it clear to the people that their God was no different than any other god of the land. The Assyrian messengers started to shout their threats and warnings to the people of Jerusalem in the language which the Israelites could clearly understand. They were hoping to get the people to rebel, open the doors of the city and let them in, saving them a great deal of time and energy. Over and over they emphasized how God was no different than the gods that people made by their own hands (2 Chr 32:16-19).

In a mocking manner, the Assyrian messengers told them that he would make a deal with the people of Jerusalem. He would give them 2,000 horses to use in battle. He said this knowing that most of the people of Jerusalem did not know how to ride horses. He was basically mocking their inability as warriors and lack of strength to conquer the great Assyrian army. The people of Jerusalem had to rely on Egypt for

their horses and chariots which were the superior war machines in many battles of that day. The messengers continued their mockery not only of the people, but of their God. They declared that it was God who told them to come and destroy their land and their city (2 Kin 18:23-25, Is 36:8-10).

The ambassadors of Jerusalem asked the Rabshakeh to speak in Aramaic, the language of Assyria, rather than in Hebrew, the language of the Israelites. They didn't want the people who were listening in and on the wall to hear their threats. This request was rejected by the Assyrians because they were not sent by their king to just talk to the leaders. They were sent by Sennacherib to give a message to all the people of Jerusalem. They were attempting to use fear and threats to defeat the people before the siege began. The Assyrians wanted to scare them by letting them know they would starve inside the city to the point where they wanted to eat and drink their own physical excrements (2 Kin 18:26-27, Is 36:11-12).

How Does this Apply to Me?

In this day and age where self-help books make millions of dollars each year, you have to be cautious of trusting in yourself. You do have to put forth some human effort as you follow God, but it is also very easy to trust in your human work rather than in the power of God. Working on areas where you are weak can be a good thing, but you must also understand that God does allow areas of weakness so He can show His mighty power. The Assyrians emphasized the great weakness of the Jerusalem army in an attempt to get the people to surrender. God had actually instructed the Israelites when they entered the land not to have many horses (Deut 17:16) knowing that they could end up trusting in their human power rather than the power of God. God loves to work through our weaknesses. It is great to be strong in His power and His might, but you must be careful you don't trust in your own ability.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to let your weaknesses encourage you to trust in Him.*

Thought for the day

2 Chronicles 32

Who did the Assyrians speak against (vs 16)?

What did they write about in the letter to deliver to Hezekiah and the leaders of Jerusalem (vs 17)?

What did the Assyrians say about the God of Israel (vs 17)?

What did they do to discourage the inhabitants of Jerusalem (vs 18)?

Why was this a "good" tactic if you are looking at it from an earthly perspective?

How do you think our enemy uses this same tactic today?

What big mistake did the Assyrians make (vs 19)?

How can you make this same mistake?

2 Kings 18

What wager did the Assyrians want to make (vs 23)?

What point was being made (vs 23)?

What did the Assyrians declare about the power of Israel (vs 24)?

What did the Assyrian say they had on their side (vs 25)?

How can people make that same false claim today?

What did the ambassadors of Israel ask (vs 26)?

Why didn't the Assyrians want to listen (vs 27)?

What did they declare would happen to the people of Jerusalem (vs 27)?

How were they thinking this would come true?

“Who Do You Believe”

Study: 2 Kings 18:28-37, Is 36:13-22

Reading: 1 Peter 5:6-10, Ephesians 6:10-20

Memory: Romans 8:15

What Does the Bible Say?

Not only did the Rabshakeh deny the request of the Jerusalem ambassadors to talk quietly and not speak in the Hebrew language, but he did the opposite and began to shout out in Hebrew so that anyone close to them could hear. The first thing he did was attack the faith of Hezekiah. He challenged the Israelites not to let Hezekiah deceive them into thinking that their God could deliver them. Though Hezekiah declared they would be spared from Assyria, the Rabshakeh made it clear that this deliverance was not possible (2 Kin 18:28-30, Is 36:13-15).

In an attempt to get the people of Jerusalem to rebel and surrender, the Rabshakeh told the people that if they chose to surrender, they would be set free and allowed to work the land which would provide food and drink. They would eventually be moved to another land somewhere, but that land would be just as good, with each citizen having his own land which could be farmed and produce abundant bread and wine. The biggest promise was that they would live and not die. He did this to appeal to the people since all of them knew that they would face great hunger in the near future. When a city was besieged, the besieging army would surround the city, not letting any goods in and out of the city. Those inside the city would hunker down and try to outlast the army that was outside their walls making preparations and building war machines to conquer the city. Some sieges would go on for a few years and those in the city often surrendered due to starvation or they were too weak to fight. This promise of abundant food would have sounded appealing to many of those in the city. They were being forced to make a decision. They could trust the words of Hezekiah or trust the words of the Assyrians (2 Kin 18:31-32, Is 36:16-17).

The people of Jerusalem were warned not to believe Hezekiah and were reminded how the gods of all the other nations had no power to save or deliver the people from the mighty Assyrian army. The Rabshakeh listed city after city that had been conquered, attempting to convince the people of Jerusalem that their God was no different (2 Kin 18:33-35, Is

36:18-20).

Though the Rabshakeh must have expected a response from someone on the wall listening, the air was completely silent. No one responded because they were following the command of Hezekiah who instructed the people not to answer the Assyrian ambassadors. Some of them must have felt the great weight of the situation, but chose to trust in Hezekiah and the God of Israel and not believe the false promises of the enemy. The Jerusalem ambassadors went back inside the city and reported everything that the Assyrians had said. When they went to Hezekiah, they tore their clothes, a sign of mourning and distress, and delivered the news to him. Though they were choosing to do the right thing, the weight of this choice and uncertainty of the future must have weighed heavy on their minds (2 Kin 18:36-37, Is 36:21-22).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Take a moment to put yourself in the shoes of the inhabitants of Jerusalem. You are facing the prospect of a long siege, not knowing what the outcome will be, but knowing that there will be suffering ahead. The enemy promises you abundant food and peace and you have to make a choice. What do you think you would do? Now translate this into the spiritual battles that you face each day. Your enemy promises you joy and pleasure if you choose to submit to the world's system. This is compared to some pain and suffering you may face if you trust your spiritual leaders who have delivered God's Word to you. Do you give into the enemy or do you choose to trust God even though situations around you may look bleak. The Israelites chose to trust in God and you will see how they were rewarded through this trust and through their suffering.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the trial that you face.*
- * *Ask God to help you trust Him and not your enemy.*
- * *Praise God because He will make you victorious.*

Thought for the day

2 Kings 18

What language did the Rabshakeh use (vs 28)?

How did he describe the king of Assyria (vs 28)? Why?

What did the Rabshakeh tell the people of Israel not to do (vs 29)?

What did he say that Hezekiah could not do (vs 29)?

How did the Rebshakeh try to get the people to doubt (vs 30)?

How does our enemy still do the same today?

****From the first temptation in the garden of Eden, Satan has been deceiving people by telling them that God can not be trusted.*

What were the Israelites encouraged to do (vs 31)?

What were they promised (vs 31)?

Why do you think this promise would sound appealing?

What empty promises of the enemy have you been tempted with?

What did he say would happen to them if they surrendered (vs 32)?

What picture did the Rabshakeh present to the people (vs 32)?

What question was asked in verse 33?

Why do you think this question would have presented a challenge to the people of Jerusalem?

Why did the Assyrians believe they would conquer Jerusalem (vs 34-35)?

Why did they think that the God of Israel was no different than other gods?

How do many people have this view of God today?

“That the Earth May Know”

Study: 2 King 19:1-19, Isaiah 37:1-20

Reading: Psalm 113:1-9

Memory: Romans 8:15

When my wife and I first took a parenting class when we were young parents, one of the types of parents that was talked about was the “Threatening, Repeating Parent.” This is a parent that tries to control their children by repeating constant threats in order to get their children to stop their wrong behavior. The main problem with this type of parenting is that the children realize that the parents threats are often empty because they have serious doubts their parents will actually act. Though I tried to avoid this, I must admit that there were times I found myself doing this. I wanted to control my child’s behavior without having to go through the discipline process.

Today, we will see how Senacherib was trying to control Hezekiah through constant threats to avoid having to go to war with him. Hezekiah chose not to believe these threats because he knew God was greater.

What Does the Bible Say?

When Hezekiah heard that the Rabshakeh had said and done he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and went into the temple area to pray. He ordered that his messengers cover themselves with sackcloth as well and sent them with a message to Isaiah. This message declared that this was a very weak point for Jerusalem. He compared it to a woman about to give birth, but without the strength needed to go through the birthing process. He asked Isaiah to pray for the people of Jerusalem and for the city itself. He wanted God to hear the message of defiance from the Assyrians and to deliver Jerusalem from the certain destruction that it was facing (2 Kin 19:1-4, Is 37:1-4).

The response of Isaiah was one of assurance and comfort. He told the messengers to tell Hezekiah not to be afraid of the words of the Assyrians. God was going to deliver Jerusalem from the Assyrians and was going to cause Sennacherib to be killed by some of his own men (2 Kin 19:5-7, Is 37:5-7).

After the Rabshakeh left Jerusalem he found Sennacherib fighting against the city of Libnah which was to the north of Lachish. While there, Sennacherib heard that the king of Cush (south of Egypt) had sent soldiers in the direction of the Assyrian army to fight against them. Sennacherib believed this attack was being financed by Hezekiah so he sent a message to Jerusalem telling Hezekiah once again that he should not trust in the power of his God to deliver him from the Assyrians. He reminded Hezekiah of all the other nations that had fallen at the hands of the Assyrians, once again attempting to emphasize to Hezekiah that he had the superior might and power when it came to battle. Just as he destroyed all of the other cities who fought against him, he would also destroy Jerusalem (2 Kin 19:8-13, Is 37:8-13).

After receiving this message, Hezekiah once again went to the temple and laid this letter out before God and began to pray that God would deliver him. He began this prayer by greatly exalting God, describing how God was the ruler of all the earth and in control of all the kingdoms on the earth. He asked God to listen to his requests and to hear the blasphemy that Sennacherib was declaring against God. Hezekiah expressed his concern over the Assyrian's ability to destroy all the other lands and their false idols. Yet, at the same time, he expressed to God that he believed that God was not like the gods made with the hands of men. He asked God to show the world that He was the one true God and to save them from the hands of the Assyrians (2 Kin 19:14-19, Is 37:14-20).

How Does this Apply to Me?

It is very easy to read stories like this without putting yourself into the shoes of Hezekiah or the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Basically, they were up against impossible odds. Though they tried their best to trust in God, they could not see or understand how God was going to work. There are times in your life where you will face situations like that. It is at these times that you need to follow the example of Hezekiah and cling to the promises that God has given you. God told Hezekiah what he would do, but Sennacherib kept threatening. The only thing that Hezekiah could do was to take that threat to God and give it over to Him. When you are facing circumstances that are difficult, do not hesitate to take this prayer that Hezekiah prayed and pray it for yourself. The God of Hezekiah is the same God that you worship and praise today. Just as Hezekiah trusted in God, you can trust in Him as well.

Isaiah 37

What did Hezekiah do when he heard what the ambassadors had to say (vs 1)?

Where did he send these ambassadors (vs 2)?

Why did they dress in sackcloth (vs 1-2)?

What did Hezekiah express about how he was feeling (vs 3)?

What did Hezekiah ask Isaiah to do (vs 4)?

Why do you think He asked Isaiah to do this instead of doing it himself (vs 4)?

What was the theme of Isaiah's message to Hezekiah (vs 6)?

Write a short list of other times in the Bible where this same message was given to the children of God.

What did Isaiah say was going to happen (vs 7)?

How does this reveal how God can fight your battles for you?

What had Sennacherib heard (vs 9)?

Why did he send another message to Hezekiah (vs 9)?

What did he emphasize in this message (vs 10)?

What mistake was Sennacherib making in his declarations in verses 11-13?

What did Hezekiah do when the letter from Sennacherib arrived (vs 14)?

What did Hezekiah declare about God (vs 16)?

What did Hezekiah ask (vs 17, 20)?

“Controlling Things”

Study: 2 Kings 19:20-31, Is 37:21-32

Reading: 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

Memory: Romans 8:15

One day, when my children were elementary age, we were sitting in our minivan waiting for my wife to come out of the grocery store. My children started playing with the radio, but since the van was newer to use, they didn't realize I could control it as well with the buttons on the steering wheel. Every time one of my daughters would touch anywhere on the radio, I would make the channels change. When her siblings touched the radio, I wouldn't do anything to it. After this went on for a few minutes, I had them all believing that one of my children had some type of super power to cause the radio to change. I eventually revealed that it was me doing it all the time. The one who thought she had that super power, wasn't really happy with me when she found out. She might still hold a slight grudge about it until this day.

Today, we are going to see that sometimes we think that our power is from ourselves. We forget that the only reason we can do what we do is because God gives us the power to do so.

What Does the Bible Say?

After Hezekiah poured out his heart in prayer before the Lord, Isaiah sent a message to him telling him that his prayer had been heard and God had sent an answer. This answer was in the form of a poem or a song. It began by describing how the Assyrians despised and scorned the people of Israel. The Assyrians were pictured at shaking their heads in disgrace as they watched the Israelites attempt to defend themselves. This mocking was not directed towards the Israelites, but was a direct disgracing of their God. They had mocked God with their messengers and had described how they were the ones with great power. We once again see a reference to the cedars of Lebanon which were a symbol of strength and power. The Assyrians described how they were powerful like these trees and they had conquered the land where these trees grew. They also dug wells wherever they wanted when they needed water and had the ability to stop the power of Egypt (2 Kin 19:20-24, Is 37:21-25)

God wanted to make it clear to Assyria that their power only came from Him. He planned it long ago that they would rise to power to bring judgement to His people and leave cities in ruins. It was God who gave them the power to remove the inhabitants of the land and had caused their power to be weak like grass that is easily diseased and destroyed (2 Kin 19:25-26, Is 37:26-27).

They could not hide their wicked ways from God because he knew everything they did and all that they said. Their words of mockery and disgrace towards the God would not go unnoticed. They would be sent back to their own nation ashamed. He described doing this by putting a hook in their noses and bits in their mouths. These are actions that would have been performed on stubborn animals so their owners could pull them to where they needed to go (2 Kin 19:27-28, Is 37:28-29).

God was not only going to bring judgement on Assyria, but He would bless Judah. They had not been allowed to plant or harvest food because of the Assyrian army, but God was going to have enough food for the next few years to grow naturally that they would be able to have a harvest of what was not planted. In the third year, they would plant again and return to the normal cycle of arming. The same would happen for the people of the land. Many of the people of Judah had been killed or taken captive, but God was going to use Jerusalem to be like a seed and cause Judah to be repopulated after the Assyrian devastation (2 Kin 19:29-31, Is 37:30-31).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that God hears and answers prayer? Sometimes God will bring difficult times in your life to force you to trust in Him. He allowed the people of Jerusalem to endure the Assyrian siege in order to get their attention and cause Hezekiah to seek God. When Hezekiah did this, God heard, answered and promised deliverance. God's message of deliverance reminded the Assyrians that they only had power because their power had been given to them by God. This should serve as a reminder to you as well that in your flesh, you are nothing. In an instant, you could lose all you have and all you hold dear. It is not your ability that has caused you to be who you are because God has given you all that you have needed.

2 Kings 19

What did Isaiah tell Hezekiah (vs 20)?

Why was this important for Hezekiah to know?

Why is it important to remind yourself that God answers prayer?

How had the Assyrians been treating Jerusalem (vs 21)?

Who were they really fighting against (vs 22)?

How is it comforting to know that when people fight against you as a believer, they are really fighting against God?

What had their messengers done (vs 23)?

What did they think they had the power to do (vs 23)?

What were they declaring in verse 24?

What had God done long ago (vs 25)?

How were the Assyrians able to have power (vs 25)?

What were the Assyrian opponents compared to (vs 26)?

What did God know (vs 27)?

Why is it so important to realize this?

What was God going to cause to happen (vs 28)?

What sign did God give to Hezekiah (vs 29)?

What was going to happen to Judah (vs 30)?

Why was this an important promise?

What do you think the end of verse 31 means?

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. 12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"