

Don't Miss It: Lessons from Hezekiah part 2



September 2, 2018

2 Kings 18:17-25

⁹ And it came to pass in the **fourth year of king Hezekiah**, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria, and besieged it. ¹⁰ **And at the end of three years they took it: even in the sixth year of Hezekiah, that is the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.** ¹¹ **And the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes:** ¹² **because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed his covenant, and all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and would not hear them, nor do them.**

¹³ **Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah** did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them. ¹⁴ And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, **I have offended**; return from me: that which thou putttest on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. ¹⁵ And Hezekiah gave *him* all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house. ¹⁶ At that time did Hezekiah cut off *the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria. ¹⁷ **And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsaris and Rab-shakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the fuller's field.** ¹⁸ And when they had called to the king, there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder. ¹⁹ And Rab-shakeh said unto them, **Speak ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, **What confidence is this wherein thou trustest?**** ²⁰ Thou sayest, (but *they are but vain words,*) *I have counsel and strength for the war.* **Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me?** ²¹ Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed,*

even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him. ²² **But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?** ²³ Now therefore, I pray thee, give pledges to my lord the king of Assyria, and I will deliver thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them. ²⁴ **How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?** ²⁵ **Am I now come up without the LORD against this place to destroy it?** The LORD said to me, Go up against this land, and destroy it. ²⁶ Then said Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and Shebna, and Joah, unto Rab-shakeh, Speak, I pray thee, to thy servants in the Syrian language; for we understand it: and talk not with us in the Jews' language in the ears of the people that are on the wall. ²⁷ But Rab-shakeh said unto them, Hath my master sent me to thy master, and to thee, to speak these words? *hath he not sent me to the men which sit on the wall, that they may eat their own dung, and drink their own piss with you?* ²⁸ Then Rab-shakeh stood and cried with a loud voice in the Jews' language, and spake, saying, Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria: ²⁹ Thus saith the king, **Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you out of his hand: ³⁰ neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria. ³¹ Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me, and then eat ye every man of his own vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his cistern: ³² until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of oil olive and of honey, that ye may live, and not die: and hearken not unto Hezekiah, when he persuadeth you, saying, The LORD will deliver us. ³³ Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered at all his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? ³⁴ Where are the gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? have they delivered Samaria out of mine hand? ³⁵ Who are they among all the gods of the countries, that have delivered their country out of mine hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of mine hand?** ³⁶ But the people held their peace, and answered him not a word: for the king's commandment was, saying, Answer him not. ³⁷ Then came Eliakim the son

of Hilkiyah, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder, to Hezekiah with *their* clothes rent, and told him the words of Rab-shakeh. And it came to pass, **when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD.** ² **And he sent Eliakim, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz.** ³ And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day *is* a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and blasphemy: for the children are come to the birth, and *there is* not strength to bring forth. ⁴ It may be the LORD thy God will hear all the words of Rab-shakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God; and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up *thy* prayer for the remnant that are left. ⁵ So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah. ⁶ **And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say to your master,** Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. ⁷ Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.

⁸ **So Rab-shakeh returned,** and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah: for he had heard that he was departed from Lachish. ⁹ And when he heard say of Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, Behold, he is come out to fight against thee: **he sent messengers again unto Hezekiah,** saying, ¹⁰ Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria. ¹¹ **Behold, thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, by destroying them utterly: and shalt thou be delivered? ¹² Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed; as Gozan, and Haran, and Rezeph, and the children of Eden which were in Thelasar? ¹³ Where is the king of Hamath, and the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, of Hena, and Ivah?**

¹⁴ **And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.** ¹⁵ **And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.** ¹⁶ **LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and**

hear the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent him to reproach the living God. ¹⁷ Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands, ¹⁸ and have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them. ¹⁹ Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.

²⁰ Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, That which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard. ²¹ This is the word that the LORD hath spoken concerning him;

The virgin the daughter of Zion hath despised thee,
and laughed thee to scorn;
the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.

²² Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed?
and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice,
and lifted up thine eyes on high?
even against the Holy One of Israel.

²³ By thy messengers thou hast reproached the Lord,
and hast said, With the multitude of my chariots
I am come up to the height of the mountains,
to the sides of Lebanon,
and will cut down the tall cedar trees thereof,
and the choice fir trees thereof:
and I will enter into the lodgings of his borders,
and into the forest of his Carmel.

²⁴ I have digged and drunk strange waters,
and with the sole of my feet have I dried up
all the rivers of besieged places.

²⁵ Hast thou not heard long ago how I have done it,
and of ancient times that I have formed it?
now have I brought it to pass,
that thou shouldest be to lay waste
fenced cities into ruinous heaps.

²⁶ Therefore their inhabitants were of small power,
they were dismayed and confounded;
they were as the grass of the field,

and as the green herb,
as the grass on the housetops,
and as corn blasted before it be grown up.

²⁷ But I know thy abode,
and thy going out, and thy coming in,
and thy rage against me.

²⁸ Because thy rage against me
and thy tumult is come up into mine ears,
therefore I will put my hook in thy nose,
and my bridle in thy lips,
and I will turn thee back
by the way by which thou camest.

²⁹ And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such things as grow of themselves, and in the second year that which springeth of the same; and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruits thereof. ³⁰ And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. ³¹ For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this. ³² Therefore thus saith 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 cast a bank against it. ³³ By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. ³⁴ For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

³⁵ And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. ³⁶ So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. ³⁷ And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esar-haddon his son reigned in his stead.

Every sincere Christian wants to have a successful life in pleasing the Lord.

- ❖ Many lives seem successful and are not in God's eyes and many lives seem unsuccessful in human eyes but are not in God's eyes.

King Hezekiah was a man that pleased the Lord. Remember what was stated about him: **He trusted in the Lord God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.**

So what does a successful life look like then?

He who has the most toys wins (dies)

- **The bottom line in a successful life is someone who trusts the Lord.**

Consider Psalm 34:8; Isaiah 26:3; Jeremiah 17:7-8

5 Signs of a Successful Life

- ✓ **Challenge** verses 9-25 and 11-13

III.- Jesus and the scribes and the Pharisees

John 8:40- but now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God....

44- ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no

truth in him, When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his won: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

✓ **Opposition Intimidation and fear tactics** verses 29-32

The enemy of our soul uses the exact same approach. Many of us picture Satan as "itching for a fight" with us. Really, Satan doesn't want to do battle with you. First of all, there is the strong chance you will win. Second of all, win or lose, the battle can draw you closer to the LORD. Thirdly, what the LORD does in your life through the battle can be a great blessing for other people. **No, Satan would much rather not fight you at all! He would much rather try to talk you into giving up!**

We see this exact strategy used against Jesus during His temptation in the wilderness. When Satan promised Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in exchange for Jesus' worship, Satan was trying to *avoid* the fight, and trying to *talk Jesus into giving up* ([Luke 4:5-8](#)). It didn't work with Jesus, and it shouldn't work with us.

Doesn't this reek of the devil such as when he said to Eve that God did know that in the day that she ate the fruit that her eyes would be opened and she would be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Rab shah Kay

Hear the words of the great king: The Rabshakeh's speech was intended to *glorify the enemy facing God's people.*

Do not let Hezekiah deceive you: The Rabshakeh's speech was intended to *make God's people doubt their leaders.*

Nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD: The Rabshakeh's speech was intended to *build fear and unbelief in God's people.*

For thus says the king of Assyria: "Make peace with me by a present and come out to me, and every one of you will eat from his own vine": The Rabshakeh's speech was intended to make *surrender an attractive option*.

Until I come and take you away to a land like your own land: Here, the Rabshakeh referred to the policies of ethnic cleansing and forced resettlement practiced by the Assyrians. When they conquered a people, they forcibly resettled them in faraway places, to keep their spirits broken and their power weak. The Rabshakeh's speech was intended to make *this terrible fate seem attractive*.

Has any one of the gods of the nations delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria: The Rabshakeh's speech was intended to *destroy their trust in God*.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10, 16-18

One old preacher received a letter with no sender or return address on the envelope. When he opened it, he saw a single piece of paper with only one word: "Fool!" He took it to the pulpit the next Sunday, and said: "I received an unusual letter this week. Never before have I received a letter where the writer signed his name, but forgot to write anything else!"

✓ **Support** verses 1 and 2 and beyond

Prayer partners, battle buddies- whatever you call it.

You need someone to get spiritual advice from.

Put everything through the biblical grid!

✓ **Prayer** verses 14-19

Successful people pray because being success is not about them- it's about God.

1. Fervent prayers produce phenomenal results.

Woodrow Kroll 🐦

O, let the place of secret prayer become to me the most beloved spot on earth.

Andrew Murray 🐦

When the devil sees a man or woman who really believes in prayer, who knows how to pray, and who really does pray, and, above all, when he sees a whole church on its face before God in prayer, he trembles as much as he ever did, for he knows that his day in that church or community is at an end.

R.A. Torrey 🐦

When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don't, they don't.

William Temple 🐦

The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.

F.B. Meyer 🐦

✓ **Victorious results** verses 35-37

We should ask: How many blessings, how many victories, how many souls saved for Jesus' glory, lie unclaimed in heaven until the LORD can say, "**because you have prayed to Me**"?

The angel of the LORD went out: Simply and powerfully, God destroyed this mighty army in one night; 185,000 died at the hand of **the angel of the LORD**. Against all odds, and against every expectation except the expectation of faith, the Assyrian army was turned back without having even shot an arrow into Jerusalem. The unstoppable was stopped, the undefeated was defeated.

b. **Now it came to pass:** Between [2 Kings 19:36](#) and [2 Kings 19:37](#), 20 years passed. Perhaps Sennacherib thought he had escaped the judgment of God, but he hadn't. He met the bitter end of death at the end of swords held by his own sons.

An old Jewish legend says how it was that Sennacherib's sons came to kill him. Sennacherib was troubled at how God seemed to bless the Jews so much, and tried to find out why. Someone told him it was because Abraham had loved God so much that he was willing to sacrifice his son unto the LORD. Sennacherib thought he would be even more favored by God, and decided to kill two of his sons in sacrifice to the LORD, becoming even more blessed than Abraham and his descendants. But his two sons learned of the plan, and killed him before he could kill them, thus fulfilling the word of the LORD.

- Are you prepared to have your decisions challenged?
- Are you aware that the devil wants to instill fear into you?
- Do you have a friend you can turn to in the time of trouble?
- Do you go to God with any trouble that comes your way?
- Do you praise God for the victories in your life?

1 minute take-away.