

HEZEKIAH (continued):

- Trusted in the Lord (2 Kings 18:5).
- Instituted major religious reform (2 Kings 18:4).
- Great blessing & prosperity ensued.

- Hezekiah's faith was soon tested with Sennacherib's invasion of Judah.
 - 20 years prior Sennacherib seized the capitol of the Northern Kingdom and led Jewish captives back to Medo-Persia.
 - Sennacherib advances from the North conquering Judah's small cities including Lachish.
 - Lachish was a well fortified city of Judah on the border of Philistia.
 - The fighting at Lachish was extremely fierce as historical and geographical records indicate.
 - Sennacherib establishes a command post at Lachish (Southwest of Jerusalem).

2 Kings 18:13-16

(13) Now in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and seized them.

- Sennacherib wipes out resistance.
- This causes Hezekiah to initially falter in his faith.
 - Remember: Even mature believers falter in times of extreme testing.

(14) Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong. Withdraw from me; whatever you impose on me I will bear." (Hezekiah succumbs to the ransom demands made by Sennacherib) So the king of Assyria required of Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

(15) Hezekiah gave him all the silver which was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasuries of the king's house.

- An extremely large sum of ransom money which Hezekiah pays!

(16) At that time Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the doorposts which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

- Sennacherib then sent a large army to Jerusalem and demands Hezekiah's surrender.
- Despite these demands the people obeyed Hezekiah's command and kept silent.
- As Sennacherib's message shakes Hezekiah's faith - - Isaiah the prophet encourages Hezekiah that the Assyrians will not be victorious.
- Sennacherib's army returns to Lachish and Sennacherib sends a letter to Hezekiah (2 Kings 19:10-19).

2 Kings 19:10-19

(10) Thus you shall say to Hezekiah king of Judah, 'Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you (a mental attitude test for Hezekiah) saying, "Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria (the message of Isaiah to Hezekiah)."

(11) (More threats!) 'Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the lands, destroying them completely. So will you be spared?

(12) 'Did the gods of those nations which my fathers destroyed deliver them, even Gozan and Haran and Rezeph and the sons of Eden who were in Telassar?

(13) 'Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, and of Hena and Ivvah?'"

(14) Then Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it, and (note the proper response of Hezekiah) he went up to the house of the LORD and **spread it out before the LORD.**

- Hezekiah's problem was quite certain – adversity and destruction.
- Reality was that Sennacherib HAD destroyed all the outlying cities and that he did have a large-powerful army and that he was capable of removing Jerusalem from the face of the earth.
- To Hezekiah and the people the situation was hopeless - to God the situation was not hopeless!
- So Hezekiah did the only thing he could do – he brought the problem to the Lord in prayer.

There are reasons that we get into certain situations in life.

There are reasons that things come upon us in the manner that they do.

There are reasons for the problems that are beyond our own personal ability to solve!

These things happen for a reason.

This is the cutting edge of glorifying God. Why?

Because you are placing the matter in the hands of God. You're letting Him solve the problem.

When the believer walks in dependence upon the Lord his relationship with the Lord becomes very intimate walk with the Lord.

POD: Effective prayer requires the believer to be completely open with the Lord.

(15) Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. (God knows who He is. Why would Hezekiah be saying these things?)

Hezekiah is building a case for prayer!

(16) "Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and listen to the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.

(17) "Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have devastated the nations and their lands

Hezekiah is restating the facts.

He is an open slate before the Lord.

He is building a case for the Lord to answer!

(18) and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. So they have destroyed them.

(19) "Now, O LORD our God, I pray,

The Request!

...deliver us from his hand...

The Purpose!

...that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, O LORD, are God."

Glory brought to the Lord because He has provided delivery.

Hezekiah has made an appeal to the Lord based on His essence.

(15) **Hezekiah prayed before the LORD** and said, "O LORD, the God of Israel,

...Who are enthroned above the cherubim...

An appeal to the fact that God is Merciful in light of the sacrifice that propitiates.

...You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth...

The ONLY living God. The ONLY One to turn to. The ONLY One that answers prayer.

You are giving Him a reason to answer your prayer.

...You have made heaven and earth...

Sovereign & omnipotent.

Great faith! Father, I know You can do this.

Hezekiah appeals to the essence of God.

(16) "Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see;

You request His attention.

You build a case for Him to act on.

(19) "Now, O LORD our God, I pray,

God's answer to this prayer -

2 Kings 19:34-36

(34) "For I will defend this city to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake."

(35) Then it happened that night that the angel of the LORD went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men rose early in the morning, **behold, all of them were dead.**

(36) So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home, and lived at Nineveh.

POD: The believer who builds a case for the Lord to answer his prayer by appealing to the essence and accomplishments of God can expect great answers from the Lord.

As the believer grows spiritually there is a familiarity that will develop in prayer.

The believer's relationship with God will become very intimate.

- God is the Creator of the universe.
- God actually listens when we pray.

Do you realize that when you pray?

God speaking to Job said, "Where were you when I created the universe?"
(Job 38:4)

Think of the power available to the Person listening to your prayer.

Highlight of a prayer warrior – **Moses:**

- Moses had an audacious prayer life.
- Moses built a case for the Lord to answer as he prayed.
 - He appealed to the integrity of God in his prayers.
 - He reminded God of the promises He had made.
 - He was not afraid to hold God to those promises.
- Moses had clout with the Lord because he trusted and was faithful to God.
- Moses spoke openly and honestly with God. Intimate communication.
- Moses was so bold he told God one time "I want to see Your face."
- To see God would result in perishing.

- As a **Church Age Believer Priest** – one who is "in Christ" you have more clout than Moses.
- You are going through the Son in prayer.
- Follow the protocol of prayer – build a case before God.
- Use the essence of God for your case.
- When you walk with the Lord YOUR prayer life will be audacious.

The Protocol of Prayer

- ❖ All prayer is addressed to God the Father - Matthew 6:8-9
- ❖ Prayer is conducted by means of the Holy Spirit
 - In **Filling** of Spirit Eph 5:13
 - With **Leading** of Spirit Gal 5:18; Rom 8:14
 - **Bearing Witness** of the Spirit Rom 8:16, 9:1
- ❖ All prayer is addressed in the name of Jesus Christ - John 14:13
- ❖ In accordance with the Will of God - John 14:13, Rom 12:2
- ❖ For the Glory of God - John 14:13
- ❖ In Faith / Trustingly – James 1:6-7, Mark 11:24
- ❖ Must be malleable to the answer God will give –

POD: The believer's realization of who he is "in Christ" provides a spiritual audacity in the intimacy of prayer before the face of God.

Hezekiah

- A man of prayer.
- Started his reign as king in the royal line of Christ with major religious reform which resulted in great blessing and prosperity.
- God tested his faith with the invasion of Judah under command of Sennacherib.
- Hezekiah stands in the gap with prayer.
- Judah is delivered and prospers.

2 Chronicles 32:20-26 (parallel account)

(20) But King Hezekiah and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, **prayed about this** and cried out to heaven.

(21) And the LORD sent an angel who destroyed every mighty warrior, commander and officer in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned in shame to his own land. And when he had entered the temple of his god, some of his own children killed him there with the sword.

(22) So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria and from the hand of all others, and guided them on every side.

*Notice who guides the person who brings things to the Lord in prayer!
When you trust in the Lord and you bring things before Him He will guide you.*

(23) And many were bringing gifts to the LORD at Jerusalem and choice presents to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations thereafter.

(24) In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill (because of Divine discipline); and he prayed to the LORD, and the LORD spoke to him and gave him a sign.

(25) But Hezekiah gave no return for the benefit he received, **because his heart was proud**; therefore wrath came on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.

(26) However, Hezekiah humbled the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come on them in the days of Hezekiah.

In review from Thursday -

POD: Prosperity is the greatest test the believer will ever face in life.

POD: Prosperity is the status of economic well being.

POD: Therefore, the believer's dependence upon the Lord in prosperity begins to dissipate.

POD: The believer in economic prosperity slowly begins to shift his dependence from the Lord to self.

POD: With dependence upon self, arrogance sews its seed in the fertile ground of the soul.

POD: Arrogance blinds the Christian from being who God wants him to be, going where God wants him to go, and doing what God wants him to do.

POD: Arrogance warrants divine discipline from the Lord in the life of the believer.

POD: Discipline is used by the Lord to the enforce humility to rejoin the ranks in the spiritual advance.

Be sensitive to the things that befall you in life.

Display all things before the Lord.

Lie whatever it is before Him – let Him look at what is before you.

Be honest – don't hold back or be timid.

If discipline – confess it and move on.

Matthew 1:10

(10) **Hezekiah** was the father of **Manasseh**, Manasseh the father of **Amon**, and Amon the father of **Josiah**.

Class Slides



All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.