

# SPREAD IT OUT BEFORE THE LORD & PRAY

2 Kings 19:1-36

Hezekiah prays and sees God as the One who is enthroned and rules over all kingdoms. He trusts God and sees deliverance.

**THE STORY:** (Use first page for lesson theme early in worship.)

Hezekiah King of Judah has a serious crisis at hand.

- Jerusalem was surrounded by a terrible enemy - Assyrian armies
- Her future looked bleak!
  - One enemy spokesman predicting Jerusalem's future...  
*...the men who sit on the wall, destined with you to eat their own excrement and drink their own urine?"*  
2 Kings 18:27b
  - Sennacherib King of Assyria sends a message to demoralize Judah's army:

*27b "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria. 29 This is what the king says: 'Don't let Hezekiah deceive you; he can't rescue you from my power.' 30 Don't let Hezekiah persuade you to rely on the LORD by saying, 'Certainly the LORD will rescue us! This city will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.'" 31 "Don't listen to Hezekiah, for this is what the king of Assyria says: 'Make peace with me and surrender to me. Then each of you may eat from his own vine and his own fig tree, and each may drink water from his own cistern 32 until I come and take you away to a land like your own land—a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey—so that you may live and not die. But don't listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you, saying, 'The LORD will rescue us.'" 33 Has any of the gods of the nations ever rescued his land from the power of the king of Assyria? 34 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Seph-ar-Em, Hena, and Ivvah? Have they rescued Samaria from my power? 35 Who among all the gods of the lands has rescued his land from my power? So will the LORD rescue Jerusalem from my power?"*

2 Kings 18:28b-35

- The question that is left hanging, **What could Hezekiah do?**

(Begin here for sermon:)

We left off earlier by asking the question, **What could Hezekiah do?**

- Jerusalem is surrounded by enemy troops – demoralized - in crisis!

(emissaries)

*1 When King Hezekiah heard their report, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the Lord's temple. 2 He sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, Shebna the court secretary, and the leading priests, who were wearing sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. 3 They said to him, "This is what Hezekiah says: 'Today is a day of distress, rebuke, and disgrace, for children have come to the point of birth, but there is no strength to deliver them.' 4 Perhaps the Lord your God will hear all the words of the royal spokesman, whom his master the king of Assyria sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke him for the words that the Lord your God has heard. Therefore, offer a prayer for the surviving remnant."*

2 Kings 19:1-4

- So Hezekiah turns to God's prophet.
  - He needed to hear from God & God speaks through His prophet.
  - We would turn to the Scriptures today.
- Isaiah responded immediately with this Word from God:

*5 So the servants of King Hezekiah went to Isaiah, 6 who said to them, "Tell your master, 'The Lord says this: Don't be afraid because of the words you have heard, with which the king of Assyria's attendants have blasphemed me. 7 I am about to put a spirit in him, and he will hear a rumor and return to his own land, where I will cause him to fall by the sword.'"*

2 Kings 19:5-7

- This is entirely an act of God!
  - Nothing that Hezekiah can do = stay put and watch it happen!
  - Hezekiah is learning that God's Word is true – trustworthy.
    - A lesson learned not apart from trials but through them!
- Assyria's field commander continues mocking the armies of God with another letter.
  - It is much like the other and Hezekiah responds nobly:

*14 Hezekiah took the letter from the messengers' hands, read it, then went up to the Lord's temple, and spread it out before the Lord. 15 Then Hezekiah prayed before the Lord: Lord God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you are God—you alone—of all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the heavens and the earth. 16 Listen closely, Lord, and hear;*

*open your eyes, Lord, and see. Hear the words that Sennacherib has sent to mock the living God. <sup>17</sup> Lord, it is true that the kings of Assyria have devastated the nations and their lands. <sup>18</sup> They have thrown their gods into the fire, for they were not gods but made by human hands—wood and stone. So they have destroyed them. <sup>19</sup> Now, Lord our God, please save us from his power so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, Lord, are God—you alone.*

2 Kings 19:14-19

- Spreading the letter before God, Hezekiah prayed.
  - Not only a plea for help in crisis but a statement that God is real and the other nation's gods are counterfeit – **Let Them Know That You Are Lord God Alone!**
  - **“God, are you going to take this”**
  - God is **enthroned between the cherubim** (angels) = picture of the mercy seat atop the Ark of the Covenant.
    - Indicates God's place and presence with His people!
    - He alone is the living God - the Sovereign Lord over all the kingdoms of the earth (including Assyria).
    - He's the mighty Creator of heaven and earth.

## • SOME APPLICATION

- What exactly are we looking at in a crisis?
  - Our hopeless situation? Our difficult circumstances?
  - OR are we looking up to God?
- We pray and focus on our problems.
  - Hezekiah prays - sees the sovereign of God on His throne.
- We pray and focus on our circumstances.
  - Hezekiah prays - sees God's rule over all the kingdoms of the earth.
- We pray and focus on what we want.
  - Hezekiah prays that through God's deliverance all kingdoms on earth will know that He alone is God.
- When we pray, we tend to tell God how big our problems are.
  - Turn it around. “Tell the problem how BIG YOUR GOD IT!”
- Pray with our eyes on God, not the problems.

- The Lord responded AGAIN.

<sup>20</sup> Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: “The Lord, the God of Israel says, ‘I have heard your prayer to me about King Sennacherib of Assyria.’ <sup>21</sup> This is the word the Lord has spoken against him:

2 Kings 19:20-21

<sup>22</sup> Who is it you mocked and blasphemed?  
Against whom have you raised your voice  
and lifted your eyes in pride?  
Against the Holy One of Israel!

<sup>23</sup> You have mocked the Lord through your messengers....

<sup>27</sup> But I know your sitting down,  
your going out and your coming in,  
and your raging against me.

<sup>28</sup> Because your raging against me  
and your arrogance have reached my ears,  
I will put my hook in your nose  
and my bit in your mouth;  
I will make you go back  
the way you came....

<sup>32</sup> Therefore, this is what the Lord says about the king of Assyria:

He will not enter this city,  
shoot an arrow here,  
come before it with a shield,  
or build up a siege ramp against it.

<sup>33</sup> He will go back  
the way he came,

and he will not enter this city.  
This is the Lord's declaration.

<sup>34</sup> I will defend this city and rescue it  
for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.”

2 Kings 19:22-34

- Then God executes His plan

<sup>35</sup> That night the angel of the Lord went out and struck down one hundred eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! <sup>36</sup> So King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp and left. He returned home and lived in Nineveh.

2 Kings 19:35-36

- Hezekiah did what he could but God protected Jerusalem!
- Hezekiah trusted God to do what he couldn't!

## PROJECT:

We can take heart today because the God who is enthroned above is also the God who is at work on earth.

- God's supremacy is a fact, from eternity to eternity.
  - It is a fact right now - Today in 2018.
- That scene will not change!
  - God has been, is and forever will be, firmly on His throne, in charge and in command!
- So let us NEVER lose sight of it – See through eyes of faith
  - Believe the mighty Hand of God is at work in this chaos of life.

## ACTION:

There is a lot being done to minimize God!

- Everything from:
  - There is not God
  - God exists but He is aloof and powerless in your life today!
- Jesus has been reinvented into a character of our own creation.
  - More like a “not so super, super-hero!”
  - Powerless to save and too weak to be of help to us!

Let the OT stories like we have discussed determine your living view of your God!

- **Let this knowledge of God, captivate us and steady our hearts today!**
- Believe in the God who conquers nations and upholds His People!