

God – Our Commander in Chief



Christ Centered, Holy Spirit Empowered, Love Focused

Prepared by: Pastor Bob Adkins

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Main Text: 2 Chronicles 32:1-22

(Note all scripture references are from the New King James version on the Bible)

Main Text:

2 Chronicles 32:1-22 After fortified cities, thinking to win them over to himself. ² And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come, and that his purpose was to make war against Jerusalem, ³ he consulted with his leaders and commanders to stop the water from the springs which *were* outside the city; and they helped him. ⁴ Thus many people gathered together who stopped all the springs and the brook that ran through the land, saying, “Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?” ⁵ And he strengthened himself, built up all the wall that was broken, raised *it* up to the towers, and *built* another wall outside; also he repaired the Millo *in* the City of David, and made weapons and shields in abundance. ⁶ Then he set military captains over the people, gathered them together to him in the open square of the city gate, and gave them encouragement, saying, ⁷ “Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that *is* with him; for *there are* more with us than with him. ⁸ With him *is* an arm of flesh; but with us *is* the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

⁹ After this Sennacherib king of Assyria sent his servants to Jerusalem (but he and all the forces with him *laid siege* against Lachish), to Hezekiah king of Judah, and to all Judah who *were* in Jerusalem, saying, ¹⁰ “Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria: ‘In what do you trust, that you remain under siege in Jerusalem? ¹¹ Does not Hezekiah persuade you to give yourselves over to die by famine and by thirst, saying, “The LORD our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria”? ¹² Has not the same Hezekiah taken away His high places and His altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, “You shall worship before one altar and burn incense on it”? ¹³ Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of *other* lands? Were the gods of the nations of those lands in any way able to deliver their lands out of my hand? ¹⁴ Who *was there* among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed that could deliver his people from my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you from my hand? ¹⁵ Now therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or persuade you like this, and do not believe him; for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people from my hand or the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you from my hand?’ ”

¹⁶ Furthermore, his servants spoke against the LORD God and against His servant Hezekiah.

¹⁷ He also wrote letters to revile the LORD God of Israel, and to speak against Him, saying, “As the gods of the nations of *other* lands have not delivered their people from my hand, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver His people from my hand.” ¹⁸ Then they called out with a loud voice in Hebrew to the people of Jerusalem who *were* on the wall, to frighten them and trouble them, that they might take the city. ¹⁹ And they spoke against the God of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth— the work of men’s hands.

²⁰ Now because of this King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, prayed and cried out to heaven. ²¹ Then the LORD sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor, leader, and captain in

the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned shamefaced to his own land. And when he had gone into the temple of his god, some of his own offspring struck him down with the sword there.

²² Thus 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.

Introduction:

1. Our nation is in the midst of war on many sides and this causes us much concern and anxiety. But as the children of God, we do not need to fear defeat, as long as our nation turns to God for deliverance.
2. Let us look at Gods' deliverance of Judah from the Assyrian army during the reign of King Hezekiah.
3. With a new President taking office on Jan. 20th 2009, we need to pray that President Obama will call upon God and upon this country to honor God to deliver us. We need a President that will lead this nation to a revival. A restoral to "In God we trust".

Body:

1. The Threat (v1):

- a. Senaccherib was invading Judah. His army was massive, Judah was no match for his army. This army had a history of successful invasions.
 - i. Sennacherib: (Sen·nach·er·ib)King of the Assyrian empire from 705–681 B.C. His name, meaning "sin has replaced brothers," ¹
 - ii. He (Sennacherib)first set himself to break up the powerful combination of princes who were in league against him. Among these was Hezekiah, who had entered into an alliance with Egypt against Assyria. He accordingly led a very powerful army of at least 200,000 men into Judea, and devastated the land on every side, taking and destroying many cities (2 Kings 18:13–16; comp. Isa. 22, 24, 29, and 2 Chr. 32:1–8). His own account of this invasion, as given in the Assyrian annals, is in these words: "Because Hezekiah, king of Judah, would not submit to my yoke, I came up against him, and by force of arms and by the might of my power I took forty-six of his strong fenced cities; and of the smaller towns which were scattered about, I took and plundered a countless number. From these places I took and carried off 200,156 persons, old and young, male and female, together with horses and mules, asses and camels, oxen and sheep, a countless multitude; and Hezekiah himself I shut up in Jerusalem, his capital city, like a bird in a cage, building towers round the city to hem him in, and raising banks of earth against the gates, so as to prevent escape ... Then upon Hezekiah there fell the fear of the power of my arms, and he sent out to me the chiefs and the elders of Jerusalem with 30 talents of gold and 800 talents of silver, and divers treasures, a rich and immense booty ... All these things were brought to me at Nineveh, the seat of my government." ²

¹Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible*. Map on lining papers. (1924). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House.

²Easton, M. (1996, c1897). *Easton's Bible dictionary*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

2. The TACTICS (V. 2-6)

- a. Judah began to cut off all water supply so the Assyrians could not have access to water while invading their territory, refortified the city and set guards around it.
- b. They also built up military, made shields and weapons, and got as prepared as humanly possible.

3. The TRUTH (V.7-8)

- a. After preparing militarily, Hezekiah brought all the people together for a motivational and encouraging rally.
- b. Truth: (v.7) "the One with US is greater than the one with him."(v.8) "with him is only an arm of flesh with us is the Lord our God to help us and fight our battle.

4. The TAUNTING (V. 9-15)

- a. Sennacherib, the Assyrian leader tried many "tricks" to discredit Hezekiah, and to inflict fear into the people of Judah.
- b. He even wrote letters slandering Jehovah God!

5. The TRIUMPH (V. 20-25)

- a. King Hezekiah and the Prophet Isaiah prayed and cried out to God.
- b. God sent an angel and destroyed all of the Assyrian warriors.
- c. God saved Judah, and guided them thereafter.
- d. The Assyrian leader (Sennacherib)...returned in shame to his homeland, and was assassinated by some of his own children.

Conclusion:

1. Right will prevail and evil will fail
2. We are called to be prepared but we must always call upon God to bring us to victory.
3. God will always honor and protect them who are on the side of right
4. God can and does act with the miraculous
5. We must pray for God to protect us and to provide victory.