

Kings of Israel and Judah – The Rule of Hezekiah II Kgs. 18:1-19:37

Thesis: To help us follow the good that Hezekiah does and be faithful to the Lord.

Introduction:

- A. It was during the reign of Hezekiah that Israel was taken into captivity.
 - 1. Israel was being ruled by Hoshea (II Kgs. 17:1-41).
 - 2. This shows the very hostile times in which Hezekiah ruled over Judah.
- B. After Hezekiah, there is only one good king remaining in Judah (Josiah – who finds and implements the book of the law of God).

I. Notice some facts about the beginning of the reign of Hezekiah (18:1-16).

- A. From the beginning of his reign, we read of the faithfulness of Hezekiah (18:1-8).
- B. After Assyria had taken Israel into captivity (18:9-12), Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, came against Hezekiah and Judah (18:13-16).
 - 1. Sennacherib told Hezekiah to pay 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold.
 - 2. Hezekiah takes the silver and gold from the house of the Lord and pays the tribute.

II. Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, sends messengers to King Hezekiah (18:17-37).

- A. Sennacherib speaks against the Lord and the deliverance that He could provide (18:17-35).
 - a. Notice especially 18:19-35.
 - b. Judah holds their peace because this is what Hezekiah tells them to do.
- B. Sometimes, we can feel like Judah must have felt.
 - 1. It seems that everyone is against us; that nobody wants us to succeed.
 - 2. Sometimes we can feel like there is no hope, just as Judah did when Sennacherib came against them.
 - 3. To see what we should do, notice what Hezekiah did.

III. When Hezekiah faced Sennacherib and his army, he went to the Lord (19:1-37).

A. Hezekiah knew that he could not defeat Sennacherib by himself; therefore, he goes to the Lord (19:1-34).

1. Hezekiah sends his messengers to Isaiah so that he can inquire of the Lord (19:1-7).
 - a. Notice what Hezekiah says to Isaiah (19:3-4).
 - b. Notice the reply of Isaiah (19:6-7).
2. Hezekiah then goes to the Lord (19:8-19).
 - a. The Rabshakeh again challenges Hezekiah (19:8-13).
 - b. Hezekiah goes to the Lord (19:14-19).
3. Isaiah comes to Hezekiah with good news concerning the defeat of Sennacherib (19:20-34).
 - a. Isaiah says that Sennacherib will not come into Jerusalem.
 - b. He promises that God will destroy Assyria so that they will not harm Jerusalem.

B. God gives Judah a great victory over the Assyrians (19:35-37).

1. God kills 185,000 of the army of Assyria (19:35).
2. When Sennacherib returns to Nineveh, he is killed by his two sons as he goes into the temple of Nisroch (19:35-37).

C. Today, when we face problems, we need to turn to the Lord.

1. Just as Hezekiah knew that he could not handle Sennacherib alone, we cannot handle our problems alone.
2. Satan is active, and he is after us.
 - a. Eph. 6:11-12 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. {12} For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
 - b. I Pet. 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
3. When we face problems, we must go to the Lord.
 - a. I Pet. 5:6-7 - Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, {7} casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
 - b. Js. 4:8 - Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Conclusion: