

What Voice Are You Listening To?

“Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD by saying, the LORD will surely deliver us, and this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria” (2 Kings 18:30).

King Hezekiah was one of the quote-on-quote good kings who reigned in Judah. “He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done” (18:3). He even went to the next level of taking down the high places and pillars that were dedicated to the false gods. Hezekiah was a valiant leader and seemed to have his people following his righteous leadership.

We find this exemplified when the great world empire at the time, Assyria, came knocking on Jerusalem’s front door. Hezekiah had instructed the people to stand firm and to trust the Lord and NOT to listen to the threats that the mighty army of Assyria would bring against them. The chief cupbearer for the king of Assyria and a multitude of others came to speak against the people of Jerusalem. Their message was in summary: “Don’t listen to Hezekiah, your God can’t protect you from our mighty army. We have destroyed nation after nation, and their gods didn’t stand a chance. Surrender now and come with us to Assyria, where you will find good land, fortune, and favor for you and your families. Let’s make a peace deal so we won’t have to hurt anyone...” On paper, this sounded like a good deal... But remember King Hezekiah’s advice: “Don’t surrender, stand your ground, TRUST GOD’S WORD and ignore the word of the enemy!”

Now I am sure there might have been a few people willing to shift sides after hearing such a bargain of prosperity and peace, especially in the face of a long period of siege and war. But amazingly enough as we keep reading, we read: “But the people were silent and answered him (that is the Assyrian leader who mocked and threatened the people) not a word, for the King’s command was, ‘Do not answer him’” (18:36). The people were obedient to their king and chose to listen to the voice of Truth and not the voice of the enemy. They chose loyalty to God instead of falling into the rebellious trap of the ones mocking the One True God. And because of this stand of faith for the Living God, the LORD Himself “went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians” (19:35).

You see, today, like the faithful remnant of old, we too are in a war. We, too, are in a daily spiritual fight. And yes, on paper, it might seem as if 185,000 Assyrian soldiers might be spread out through the land, ready to attack at any second. It might look like you don’t have a chance of victory, much less survival, and the circumstances are not in your favor at all... But remember that Almighty God loves to show up and work for His people in desperate situations. Especially when we stand our ground in faith, trust the Miracle Working God, and listen to the voice of Truth and NOT the voice of the enemy!

Whatever your battle is right now, make the choice to listen to GOD! Trust God! Believe God! And watch the God of all grace work the miracle!!!

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis