

HEZEKIAH AND THE ASSYRIANS, ACT 1:
ASSYRIA INVADES
(2 Kings 18:13-37)

- I. Seizing Judah's FORTIFIED CITIES (2 Kings 18:13-16)
 - A. This was a PREDICTABLE response to Hezekiah's REBELLION (18:13)
 - B. It SUCCEEDED in provoking Hezekiah's CAPITULATION (18:14-16)
 - 1. He APOLOGIZED and offered to pay WHATEVER ASSYRIA DEMANDED
 - 2. He stripped the TEMPLE and the royal TREASURY of GOLD and SILVER to pay their exorbitant tribute

- II. Marching against JERUSALEM (2 Kings 18:17-37)
 - A. The REASON for their attack (18:17)
 - 1. Hezekiah's TRIBUTE may have been INADEQUATE
 - 2. Sennacherib's WORD may have been WORTHLESS
 - B. The Assyrian message for Jerusalem, ROUND 1 (18:18-26)
 - 1. Called for parlay with the KING, but were met by three OFFICIALS
 - 2. Said Hezekiah had neither WISDOM nor STRENGTH to resist
 - a. "You think EGYPT will help? They will only HURT you!"
 - b. "You think YAHWEH will help? You've torn down his HIGH PLACES and ALTARS!"

- c. “We’ll give you 2000 HORSES, but you won’t be able to MOUNT a CAVALRY
 - d. “You own God has FORSAKEN you”
- C. The Assyrian message for Jerusalem, ROUND 2 (18:27-35)
 - 1. Continues in JUDEAN, boasting his message is for EVERYONE who will have to EAT their own dung and DRINK their own urine
 - 2. Tells them to HEED “the GREAT king, the king of Assyria”
 - a. “Don’t let Hezekiah DECEIVE you; he can’t DELIVER you”
 - b. “Don’t let Hezekiah convince you to TRUST YAHWEH, for he will deliver you to US”
 - c. “Don’t let Hezekiah persuade you to RESIST; but SURRENDER”
 - d. “Each who surrenders will have plenty of FOOD and WATER in a NEW land LIKE your own”
 - e. “Don’t let Hezekiah MISLEAD you; no GOD of any nation has been able to DELIVER them from Assyria”
- D. The Judean RESPONSE to the Assyrian message (18:36-37)
 - 1. The people OBEYED the king and remained SILENT
 - 2. The officials REPORTED to the king in MOURNING

III. Lessons

- A. Genuine faith does not SHIELD one from all DISASTER
- B. Genuine faith can FALTER UNDER PRESSURE
- C. ACTIVITY can become a SUBSTITUTE for faith