

The Attack of Satan

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Dear heavenly Father, most holy, just and righteous Lord, I thank thee Lord for this day, for the freedom to come here today, Lord, for thy Spirit that has bidden thy children to be here. I pray, oh Lord, that in this hour, that thou would be pleased to exalt thy name. Oh Lord, thou knowest the passage thou hast given me is not one that I readily want to preach, but, Lord, knowing that it is thy Word, I pray, Lord, that we see thy Son high and exalted in this passage today. Lord, temper the zeal that is in me this hour and temper it with thy love. And, Lord, may thy sheep be fed? May thy name be glorified above all other names? In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

One of the things that the people of God have in common, their common salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ, a common life against a three headed enemy. We struggle so much against our own indwelling sin and the flesh, against this world and its allurements and against the prince of the power of the air.

I tremble when I have a message like this because a great deal of time will be spent on talking about him. And that bothers me. It bothers me because if left to me he should not... we shouldn't even speak of him. But he is a real enemy. He is a mighty enemy. And he works in many ways, many ways to prey upon our flesh, to prey upon our fallen nature with one thing in his mind. If he could, to throw down the Lord Jesus Christ off his throne.

We all, being the children of God that are called by his name, that are called out of a way that we once walked, still have this common enemy.

I stand so humbled today because I acknowledge that that enemy, Satan, is much stronger than I am. And I acknowledge that my Lord is much stronger than I am. But also, praise be to God, he is stronger than the enemy.

The passage we have today—which is another thing that causes me trepidation because it is a long passage. I would like for you to turn with me to 2 Kings, not a place we spend a lot of time, but I pray this morning. You know, it is a blessed thought, it is a blessed meditation, it is a blessed life when the Lord Jesus Christ arrests you, when he opens up his Scriptures, the New Testament that speaks of him. Would you look at the red words? We could say these are the words of my Lord and we can readily understand them even.

But not understand them fully or even begin to understand the depth without his Spirit illuminating them.

But then as you go to the Old Testament you start to see that all of those words testify of him and all of the words that were spoken and all of the things that the saints of God went through then is the same struggle we have today. That is what this passage is.

We are going to spend some time speaking this morning about the struggle in Hezekiah's life. If you turn with me to 2 Kings 18 and in chapter 18 we are going to skip around. I mean, we are going to go in order, but we are not going to cover every verse because, as I said, there is a lot to cover today. I pray the Lord gives me the strength, the clarity of mind and most important as the apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians six, that we all be of the same spirit in the Lord Jesus Christ this day as he reveals to you the threat of this enemy, because he is real.

We begin in 2 Kings 18. And the first thing I want you to see in the life of Hezekiah is verse three.

“And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did.”¹

If you read the book of Kings you will go on a roller coaster. You will go to the heights of where the Lord led a king who walked after the ways of him and then you will go down into many one or two wicked kings who turned their back on the Lord. Then the Lord would send his mercy and he would send them a king that was, as we see here with Hezekiah, he did according all that David his father did.

So we are told something about Hezekiah first.

And in verse five it tells us something even more about him.

He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him. For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses.²

How? How is it that you back then before Christ was ever came in on the scene, before he was ever incarnate? Did you have something different?

Well, verse seven tells us no.

“And the LORD was with him.”³

¹ 2 Kings 18:3.

² 2 Kings 18:5-6.

³ 2 Kings 18:7.

He conquered. He lived. He was a Christian because of the life of Christ. He was one of God's anointed because of the life of Christ, because the Lord was with him.

“And he prospered whithersoever he went forth.”⁴

So the first thing we see about Hezekiah that we have to understand this morning and he was a heaven born son. He was a child of God and he was a king. That is very important, because where we are going to go next you are going to think, maybe he wasn't.

But this is our life, dear ones. This is the assaults of the wicked one.

Hezekiah, we are told, that the Lord was with him. He walked with the Lord. The Lord was his life. So something has been done in Hezekiah.

We are told in verse 11, just by passing that this... Oh, well, let's finish verse seven.

“And he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.”⁵

All through this passage today the king of Assyria is representing Satan. He is the one that the Lord would raise up. And all of his attacks, you are going to see, are common. You are going to see, hopefully. You will see that they are attacks that have come in your life. You will see the ins and the outs of how Satan works, how he came to this heaven born soul and how he kept coming and kept coming and kept coming. And you are going to see the power that Hezekiah had. And you are going to see, Lord willing, what it is that the child of God can do in these hours.

So we are told that the Lord was with him. And because the Lord was with him, because the Lord dwelled in him, he rebelled against the King of Assyria. He rebelled against him and he said, “I will serve you not.”

Now later in verse 11 we are told that that same king has already carried away Israel. He has already carried away the major bulk of the tribes, 10 of them. They serve him. They are gone. They have been carried away. This is the power of this king.

And then we come to verse 13 because now it is time for the assaulter to turn his attention to the child of God. We are not told anything about Israel. We are not told who their king was at this time. We were, earlier, but it was one that did not walk after the ways of the Lord. And now the assault will come.

And in verse 13 it says, “Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib,”⁶ that is the name of the king, “king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them.”⁷

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ 2 Kings 18:13.

⁷ Ibid.

Immediately all these little cities and communities that lay outside of Judah, Sennacherib come in and he took every one of them. And all that Judah now can see with their eyes, is they see the oppression of this one now who has taken over all of their outside lying communities. And they are going to see a mighty, mighty king come up and they are going to see a mighty bunch of enemy come up and is going to surround them, all the people in Judah. And the very first thing that Hezekiah does we are told in 14. And don't you dare cast a stone because this is what we are. This is when fear grips us, when we look around and we see a fearful situation, immediately Hezekiah confers with flesh and blood.

“ And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended.”⁸

What? We are just told over here that you walked after the ways of the Lord, that the Lord was with you, that you rebelled against Satan. That you rebelled and said, “No, I will not serve you Satan.”

But yet in the very first attack, in the very first attack and it is an attack of fear and it is an attack of fear comes and you see this situation and you say, “Wow, this is hard. You know what I will do? I will placate Satan. I will tell Satan, I will walk with you for a time because it looks to be so improbable. It looks to be I have no strength to fight you, Satan. So you know what? I will join you.”

So what is it? I have offended you, Satan.

“Return from me: that which thou puttest on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.”⁹

“That's all you need to do. You pay me these and I will flee from you.”

Does he say that to you? Have you experienced that in your life that when Satan comes, if you commune with Satan the words seem to be they are grievous, but they also have a light at the end of the tunnel and that light is if I just pay this wage, if I just do this, it will go away.

Do we do that? Do we reason?

All throughout this you are going to see carnal reason. We look at the situation in our lives. We look at it and we say, “I know how to get out of that. And this is all that I have to do to do that.”

⁸ 2 Kings 18:14.

⁹ Ibid.

And, you know, and this is the way Satan works. He belittles the sin. He looks at the sin and he makes it go, “It is not that bad. It is really not that bad. Just pay your 300. Pay your silver. Pay your gold. I will flee from you.”

Hezekiah says, “All right. That is what I will do.

And it says:

And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king’s house. At that time did Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.¹⁰

Can we serve two masters? Can we? My Lord says you will hate the one and serve the other and love the other. You will love the one and hate the other.

But this is a child of God. This is a child of God right in the moment of the heat of the battle when Satan comes to him. It is a moment of weakness. There is a conferring with self.

You know, I could get out of this. I could get out of this. All I have got to do is do this.

Well, let’s see if he gets out of it.

“And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsaris and Rabshakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host.”¹¹

I gave him the silver and I gave him the gold, but now he sends all of these.

And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the fuller’s field. And when they had called to the king, there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder.¹²

So Hezekiah doesn’t come out. He sends his envoy. He sends his people that represent him. It wasn’t common for the king to come out against the enemy. You wouldn’t do that.

So he sent his people under him. And they came out.

¹⁰ 2 Kings 18:15-16.

¹¹ 2 Kings 18:17.

¹² 2 Kings 18:17-18.

“And Rabshakeh said unto them, Speak ye now to Hezekiah.”¹³

Because Rabshakeh comes as one of the servants of Satan. And he comes and he comes with a message. Now what is that message? That message is, “You have served me. You have given me what I want. Now I am going to go away.”

No. Look how he comes back again.

“The wages of sin is death.”¹⁴

The wages of walking in the ways and communing with flesh and blood is death.

And he comes and he says, “Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, What confidence is this wherein thou trustest?”¹⁵

Have you been there? I have. I say, “Well, I have been taught the Scriptures. I know what they are. I just have got to resist the devil and he will flee from me.”

And the devil is not fleeing and I am resisting. I mean, I am telling him things. I am saying, “This is what the Scriptures say.” And this isn’t happening.

So what is going wrong here?

And then all of the sudden Satan’s voice is coming into my mind and it is saying, “What confidence do you have? What confidence do you have in your king? What confidence do you have in the Lord Jesus Christ? Did he die for you? Did he really die for you? And that efficacious blood that flowed from his side, was that... did that flow for you?”

What do you have your confidence in today?

When Satan comes is your confidence in your carnality of knowledge? Is it in your strength? Is it in your doctrine?

Now listen to these words in 20.

“Thou sayest, (but they are but vain words).”¹⁶

These is the message of the messenger of Satan.

“I have counsel and strength for the war.”¹⁷

¹³ 1 Kings 18:19.

¹⁴ Romans 6:23.

¹⁵ 2 Kings 18:19.

¹⁶ 2 Kings 18:20.

¹⁷ Ibid.

That is what you say. You say you have God's counsel around you. You say that you have strength for the war.

“Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me?”¹⁸

And all of the sudden, if we are given to see the power of Satan, if we are given to see the minions that he has, if we are given to see the height and the depth of how strong this enemy is, then all of the sudden we don't feel too strong anymore.

I always remember the fight between Pilgrim and Apollyon and what a battle it was. And we know that the only way that that one was played was with the power of the sword of the Spirit. We can't just say it is the sword. It is the sword of the Spirit. It is the Spirit that brings the Word of God to your soul. It is the Spirit that brings the Word of God to your mind, to your will, to your soul, to say, “No. No, I won't serve you Satan.”

I do not, my intention, as the Lord knows my heart today is not to exalt Satan. I do not want to spend a lot of time on him. What I do want to do is show you how he keeps coming and show you how the logic that he applies to your carnal reason, to your carnal logic and it all starts to make sense. You start to... You know what? Who is it that I trust and how can I rebel against this king? There is 185,000. We are fenced in.

You have to understand this. They are surrounded. You are going to read some very graphic things here in a moment. That is what we are brought to, helplessness, to see the direness of the situation. This is what we are if we serve Satan. This is what we are if we walk that way. What are we without Christ?

We will see this, Lord willing.

Jump down to 22 with me.

“But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away.”¹⁹

Remember, well, we didn't read that one, but back in verse four it said he broke down the high places. They had many places in Judah that they went for sacrifice. Some of them would go to those places to sacrifice unto the Lord God.

And he says, “Why are you following this man? He broke down all of those places that you have deemed to be the one that you sacrificed unto your God?”

What kind of logic are we having now? Now he comes to us with our religious duties. Now he comes to us and he says, “Well, didn't you pray? Didn't you do this? Don't you go to church? Don't you read your Bible? Don't you do all of those things?”

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ 2 Kings 18:22.

“But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?”²⁰

What is he doing? He is trying to persuade the people not to follow Hezekiah and at the same time to persuade Hezekiah because this is being shouted out. They are outside the wall. All the people are on... not all the people, but most of the people are on the walls and they are looking down and this one is shouting these blasphemous things against their king. And is that not what Satan does?

Now, I hope and I pray that in your life, in your walk with the Lord, you could tell the difference, that you could tell what Satan’s work is. Oh, sometimes it is hard because of these next couple of verses here. He comes not in a thunderous and he doesn’t come with words that are smooth words. He comes with what appeals to the flesh. He comes with what appeals to our eyes and the lust of the eyes.

“Now therefore, I pray thee, give pledges to my lord the king of Assyria, and I will deliver thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them.”²¹

You know what? If you follow me, I will give you strength.

Now, by now, you should start to be thinking about the temptation of Christ. It should be resonating in my mind. My Lord was tempted this way. My Lord was tempted with the riches. My Lord was tempted with bread when he hungered for 40 days. My Lord was tempted and taken up on the pinnacle and said, “All this can be yours.”

And yet he is tempted without sin. And how was that?

He stood in the truth. He stood in the truth that he knew. He stood up against Satan, armored against Satan.

I will make you strong if you just follow me.

Now down to 25.

And this is the worst attack of Satan. This is the one we have to be the most fearful of.

“Am I now come up without the LORD?”²²

Do you hear what he is saying? The Lord has sent me. Your Lord that you say that you pay tribute to, your Lord that you follow, he has sent me. He comes as an angel of light.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ 2 Kings 18:23.

²² 2 Kings 18:25.

“Am I now come up without the LORD against this place to destroy it? The LORD said to me, Go up against this land, and destroy it.”²³

Now he has transformed himself not to tell you who he is. Now he is going to prey upon you with the Word of God. And we saw that in the second temptation of Christ, didn't we?

“Throw yourself down because it is written that they won't let your foot even hit the stones. You won't know. No. I am going to put what David said.”

Dear ones, this is when it is the battle is in the very... this is the extreme heat of the battle.

Have you come to a point in your life that you are faced with some big trial in your life or big decision that needs to be made? And immediately you say, “You know what? I know a passage I am going to go to. I know what...”

But see... you know what? You say, “Well, that is good, isn't it?”

We come with our own carnal... we read the situation. We look at our carnal reasoning of it and then we quick into... we say, “You know what? God spoke about this and I am going to go and I am going to justify my actions with what the Word of God says.”

Can you do that? I have done it many times. And you know what? At the end of every one of them I was shown it was another spirit that led me there.

Being exercised by this other spirit is the most low time in the life of a child of God. Talk about shame. You talk about guilt because when you see the cross, when the Lord does show you the cross, he shows you the ultimate price that was paid for that very sin. And it makes you mourn.

But praise be to God he doesn't leave us there, because then he shows us the empty tomb. He shows us his victory over these enemies.

And Hezekiah now, he hasn't been given this word yet, but I want you to see, Lord willing you see how Satan is working here. He is relentless. He appeals to the flesh. He appeals to fears. He appeals to your weakness. What is it that you have confidence in? He appeals to your spirituality and he says, “Oh, you are a spiritual person. Well, the Lord has sent me here.” And he transforms himself as an angel of light and then all of the sudden you have... this is why that portion of Scripture is so important in trying the spirits. There is an “S” on that. Try the spirits because there is such a prevalence of false spirits in this world.

Yeah, this one, this one really hits home because he said he had come in the name of the Lord. That had to be kind of a shocking to the people there in Israel. You said what? You are coming in the name of my Lord? I mean that is different because a while ago

²³ Ibid.

you were coming in the name of the king of Assyria. But now you are coming in my Lord sent you?

Now look at the immediate response of those that he is speaking to.

“Then said Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, and Shebna, and Joah, unto Rabshakeh, Speak, I pray thee, to thy servants in the Syrian language.”²⁴

“Change your language please, because all the people are hearing this. We don’t want them to follow you now, so can you talk to us in your tongue, because we understand it.”

“Talk not with us in the Jews’ language in the ears of the people that are on the wall.”²⁵

But listen to what Rabshakeh said.

“But Rabshakeh said unto them, Hath my master sent me to thy master, and to thee, to speak these words?”²⁶

Do you see the power he comes in? And then I want you to see the direness of the situation.

“Hath he not sent me to the men which sit on the wall?”²⁷

And you can read the rest of that verse.

Basically he is saying that you will eat your own waste. You will drink your own waste. Do you see what we have? You are hemmed in. There is nowhere. There is no salvation for you.

And Satan is coming even stronger now and he is coming and he is tightening down the screws now and he is looking and he is appealing to what? He is appealing to your sight. He is appealing to what you see because the just live by faith, which is not by sight.

But yet we look at sight and sight comes and it fears us. Oh, my gosh, this is true. I am falling down. I am doing all this stuff. I am hemmed in on ever side. And not only am I hemmed in, but I have the worst... If I don’t follow... If I don’t get in to this, it the direst of consequences. If I don’t give in to Satan, if I don’t want and just... if I am just placate him this one time it will all be better.

This is the fiercest of how he comes to the child of God.

“Then Rabshakeh stood and cried with a loud voice in the Jews’ language.”²⁸

²⁴ 2 Kings 18:26.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ 2 Kings 18:27.

²⁷ Ibid.

He wanted to make sure he spoke the words that they understood. He wanted to make sure that they saw a likeness in him.

“Oh, he speaks our language.”

And, dear ones, because of our fallen nature, Satan speaks our language, the language of the flesh.

See, there is something for him to commune with in us and that is the old man.

“And spake, saying, Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria: Thus saith the king.”²⁹

He is not done. “Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you out of his hand.”³⁰

He won't. Don't let Hezekiah lead you. Don't listen to Hezekiah. Look at your situation. I have already took the 10 tribes off. I have taken all of the cities around you. You are nothing before me. Now follow me. And if Hezekiah is not following me, don't listen to him. Don't let him deceive you.

“Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD.”³¹

Well, that is the thing. He can't make them trust in the Lord.

“Saying, The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.”³²

So now fear has gripped the child of God and now we say, “Oh, gosh, we can easily identify Satan.”

Can't we? I mean, he is coming with fear and it is torment and this is easy to identify because we know our Lord doesn't come that way. We know it is only his love that will cast out that fear and we know that his torment, that the Lord doesn't torment us. The torment that Satan has is not... it is an easy identifier of Satan.

So now we are on our way because now we can identify him.

Now he changes clothes again.

²⁸ 2 Kings 18:28.

²⁹ 2 Kings 18:28-29.

³⁰ 2 Kings 18:29.

³¹ 2 Kings 18:30.

³² Ibid.

This is who we fight. This is the power of who we fight.

“Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me, and then eat ye every man of his own vine.”³³

Three verses after what they were going to eat up there.

“If you serve me, if you just give in... Do you understand what you are going... do you understand our relationship now? If you serve me, if you serve Hezekiah that is what you are going to eat. You serve me? Look what you are going to eat.”

But now he is not so fierce anymore, is he? No. No, he is coming back to that carnal reason again and we are going, “You know? That is looking pretty good.”

This is what I hope you see, how relentless Satan is. And then the way we reason things we have got him just where we want.

Oh, yeah, the Lord has put him under his feet. We have got him over here. And he ain't going to touch me. I have got everything under control.

Can you say that? Have you been there?

Yeah, I have.

Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me, and then eat ye every man of his own vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his cistern: Until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of oil olive and of honey, that ye may live, and not die: and hearken not unto Hezekiah, when he persuadeth you, saying, The LORD will deliver us.³⁴

“Don't listen to that. Has he delivered you yet? You are in the middle of this trial. I keep coming, I keep coming. You are not delivered. Look around you. Have you been delivered? But yet if you follow me, the wages of sin is not death. The wages is fruit. It is blessings.”

And then he is not done still because now he appeals to facts. Now he is going to bring you the facts that are in your life.

Isn't it rue? And this is all true.

³³ 2 Kings 18:31.

³⁴ 2 Kings 18:31-32.

“Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered at all his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?”³⁵

Have any of these other gods stood up to him?

“Where are the gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? have they delivered Samaria out of mine hand?”³⁶

Are they safe? No.

“Who are they among all the gods of the countries, that have delivered their country out of mine hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of mine hand?”³⁷

And then in this whole passage, the most remarkable words are spoken in this next verse.

And I tell you what. Knowing my fallen nature, knowing how I want to give up, knowing that if I was in that situation, I would listen to him. I can tell you that just as honest as I stand here. I would sell our Hezekiah. I would put him on a boat. I would go. I would look and I would say, “I am going to save my family. I am going to save whatever I have and I am going to do it and I am going to follow you.” That is what I would do left to myself.

“But the people held their peace.”³⁸

How? How could the people in this immense pressure and this life and death situation, how can they hold their peace?

It is by grace alone, dear ones. It is by grace alone. And we are kept by the power of our Lord.

“But the people held their peace, and answered him not a word: for the king’s commandment.”³⁹

The Lord Jesus Christ’s commandment said, “Answer him not.”

See, that is how we are kept. In the moment of the most intense, all the words are coming to us. Oh, you are crazy. You need to give in. You need to do this. You need to do... and Satan turns it up and he turns it up and he turns it up and I will tell you something. If grace isn’t there, you will lose that battle. Millions do. But grace preserves, grace and the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁵ 2 Kings 18:33.

³⁶ 2 Kings 18:34.

³⁷ 2 Kings 18:35.

³⁸ 2 Kings 18:36.

³⁹ Ibid.

Then we end this chapter with them coming back to tell Hezekiah now what was said.

Hezekiah, you know, the one who ripped off all the gold and tried to buy Satan? What is he going to do now?

“And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD.”⁴⁰

Much different, much different.

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” That is what Peter said.

“Will you not follow me also?” the Lord said.

“Where will we go?”

And when we come to this one, when the heaven born soul is poured out and all of this anger and all of Satan’s attacks come down upon him, where does one preserved by grace go? He goes to his Lord and he throws himself upon him and he mourns and he went into the house of the Lord.

“And he sent Eliakim, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet.”⁴¹

Isaiah lived there at that time and Hezekiah knew that Isaiah was a prophet of God.

Go to Isaiah and see what he say about this because listen to this message.

“And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day is a day of trouble.”⁴²

Dear ones, every day of our life is a day of trouble because of these enemies. Every day must be lived upon Christ in his armor with his mind, with his life in him because every day is a day of trouble.

The assault are there every day.

“This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and blasphemy.”⁴³

But listen to what Hezekiah says, “For the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth.”⁴⁴

⁴⁰ 2 Kings 19:1.

⁴¹ 2 Kings 19:2.

⁴² 2 Kings 19:3.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

“We have no strength, Isaiah. I want you to understand something. I am a king and I have a people under me. But do you know what? This assault, I have no strength.”

And Hezekiah sees the enemy stronger than him. And you have to see the enemy is stronger than you, because if you don't, you are going to fight him in your own strength over time and you will lose if the Scriptures are true.

What kind words are these three: “It may be?” Verse four.

“It may be the LORD thy God will hear.”⁴⁵

What is that, dear ones? It is hope. That is hope. That is what the Lord gives his people in the moment. They had hope. He sends the Word down to their soul. He sends the love of Christ down to their soul and preserves them in that hour with hope.

“It may be the LORD thy God will hear all the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God; and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that are left.”⁴⁶

This is what he told the people to tell Isaiah.

“So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah.”⁴⁷

Notice there is no exchange of words here. There is no exchange of words. There is no exchange of what the situation is. But the Lord had already spoken to Isaiah. The Lord spoke to Isaiah and he said, “You say unto them...”

“And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say to your master...”⁴⁸

“Go back and tell Hezekiah this.”

“Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid.”⁴⁹

And that is what the Holy Spirit says to the child of God today. “Be not afraid. Be of good cheer. It is I who have overcome the world. Be of great comfort for I have sent you the Comforter.”

“Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. Behold...”⁵⁰

⁴⁵ 2 Kings 19:4.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ 2 Kings 19:5.

⁴⁸ 2 Kings 19:6.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

Now look. I want you to pay attention to this verse because it is so...

If I asked everyone in this room what the end of Satan is, you would be able to tell me. You would be able to tell me he will be thrown into the lake of fire. You would be able to tell me that Christ has conquered him. You would be able to tell me that his life and all that he is will have an end. His reign will have an end.

And that is what God gave Hezekiah.

“Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.”⁵¹

“I am going to deliver him. He will die. My decree is that this one that antagonizes you will never antagonize you again.”

We know that, don't we? In our heart of hearts what we have read in the Scriptures has the Spirit said to you that you are alive in Christ and that he has the words of eternal life and that none can pluck him out of his hand? None? That you are safe and secure and accepted in the beloved? Do you know that?

So now Hezekiah knows that.

We think everything is good, right? No more from Satan.

So Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah: for he had heard that he was departed from Lachish. And when he heard say of Tirhakah king of Ethiopia...⁵²

He heard a rumor. He heard a rumor of war.

“...king of Ethiopia, Behold, he is come out to fight against thee: he sent messengers again unto Hezekiah.”⁵³

Even though there was a rumor, even though they had refocused their attention on another enemy, Sennacherib said, “I am not done with you, Hezekiah. I have got some more words for you.”

But remember what Hezekiah now has? He has been given the understanding that you will be destroyed, that his enemy will be destroyed.

⁵⁰ 2 Kings 19:6-7.

⁵¹ 2 Kings 19:7.

⁵² 2 Kings 19:8-9.

⁵³ 2 Kings 19:9.

“Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee.”⁵⁴

See, isn't that what Satan says?

“I am not the deceiver, he is.”

Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria. Behold, thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, by destroying them utterly: and shalt thou be delivered?⁵⁵

Can't you see?

Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed; as Gozan, and Haran, and Rezep, and the children of Eden which were in Thelasar? Where is the king of Hamath, and the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, of Hena, and Ivah?⁵⁶

Where are they, again? He brings up the same thing. This time he says, “Look again. Look again, now. Look again and see with your eyes. How are you going to be delivered?”

“And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.”⁵⁷

Dear ones, that is what the heaven born soul does. Take your assaults of Satan and spread them before the Lord Jesus Christ and then say, “Is this true? Is it true, Lord? Lord, this is what Satan says he is. This is who Satan says and what he is going to do. This is all the assaults I have taken.”

And so that is what he did. He spread it before the Lord. It was personal now. It was between him. Isaiah is not present. It is between him and the Lord and he brings it to the feet of the Lord again.

And Hezekiah prayed. Listen to this prayer.

“And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.”⁵⁸

⁵⁴ 2 Kings 19:10.

⁵⁵ 2 Kings 19:10-11.

⁵⁶ 2 Kings 19:12-13.

⁵⁷ 2 Kings 19:14.

⁵⁸ 2 Kings 19:15.

Lord, I appeal to your sovereignty. You have made this. You have brought this wicked one into my life.

Remember Job? Yeah.

“LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent him to reproach the living God.”⁵⁹

He appeals not for his own self. He doesn't even appeal for the people. He appeals for God's name.

“Lord, this is what he is saying against you.”

“Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands.”⁶⁰

It is true. They have.

“And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them.”⁶¹

That is faith in action. It is true. As I look around he has destroyed everybody. But do you know what? They didn't have the God. You are the God. All of them thought they had the God, but look. I have the Lord.

“But the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them. Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us.”⁶²

He cries out for salvation because there is no other name given under heaven where man may be saved.

“Salvation is of the Lord.”⁶³

How many of them had to come to this? And we have to come to that, too. We have to be brought there. We have to be ushered in by the Holy Spirit to see it.

Then Isaiah comes back. Let me finish 19.

“Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.”⁶⁴

⁵⁹ 2 Kings 19:16.

⁶⁰ 2 Kings 19:17.

⁶¹ 2 Kings 19:18.

⁶² 2 Kings 19:18-19.

⁶³ Jonah 2:9.

⁶⁴ 2 Kings 19:19.

“For your glory, Lord.”

See, the prayers of the saints are for the glory of God who want the glory of the name of God to ring out in this earth. And when we see judgment in this earth and when we see it poured out and when we see the things that the Lord brings about, we glorify his name in it. And we don't stand back and we don't weep, which we will see here shortly.

We stand and we say, “Lord, thou doest and thy counsel and they will is perfect. And this brings glory to my Lord and glory be his name.”

“Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah...”⁶⁵

Once again, no words.

“Saying Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, That which thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.”⁶⁶

Do you know why he heard it? Because our Lord is a prayer answering God.

I don't know how many times that exact phrase, if you read the life and times of [?] that phrase is probably in that book 50 times. “Our Lord is a prayer answering Lord.” Our God is a prayer answering God.

Has he been that to you? Has he answered your petitions?

I have heard it.

Now listen to what the Lord says.

“This is the word that the LORD hath spoken concerning him; The virgin the daughter of Zion hath despised thee.”⁶⁷

That is the people of God.

“...and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.”⁶⁸

Wow.

But look what state they are in. They are surrounded. They are oppressed. They are... right. But Church triumphant in the Lord Jesus Christ sees him as the victor, sees him as the conqueror, sees him as life in destroying and stepping on the neck of Satan.

⁶⁵ 2 Kings 19:20.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ 2 Kings 19:21.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

“Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.”⁶⁹

Satan will do that. When the Lord walks on this earth, he will lift up himself against the holy one of Israel. And Sennacherib pictured for us as Satan has done the same.

“Oh, yes, I can stand against him. I can stand against this, God. And I will be victorious.”

And our God says, “Really? You have lifted up yourself against the holy one of Israel?”

By thy messengers thou hast reproached the Lord, and hast said, With the multitude of my chariots I am come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon, and will cut down the tall cedar trees thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the lodgings of his borders, and into the forest of his Carmel. I have digged and drunk strange waters, and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of besieged places.⁷⁰

This is what you say you have done.

You are ready. You are sitting there ready to take their land. You are ready to take the cedars of the land. You are ready to take all of this. And you said you have done it.

This is Nebuchadnezzar all over again. But Nebuchadnezzar was led to see that it was God and it was the Lord.

And the Lord says in 25, “Hast thou not heard long ago?”⁷¹

“Satan, haven’t you heard long ago? Yes, you have. When I threw you out of heaven. My Son beheld you as light and you came and it was thrown out of heaven when you were given the sentence that was given to you. Have you not heard long ago how I have done it and of ancient times that I have formed it? I have done it before the foundation of the world. Who are you to stand against me?”

These are the words of our Lord. This is the armor that we armor, the helmet of salvation. It is finished, Lord, you have done it. It is the sword of the Spirit, wielding the Word of God and saying, “This is the Lord.” Saying, “This is who he is.”

It is all the pieces fighting against this enemy.

⁶⁹ 2 Kings 19:22.

⁷⁰ 2 Kings 19:23-24.

⁷¹ 2 Kings 19:25.

“Hast thou not heard long ago how I have done it, and of ancient times that I have formed it? now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldest be to lay waste fenced cities into ruinous heaps.”⁷²

“I did that. Those fenced cities on the outside that you said you were so mighty in conquering, I did that.”

“Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded; they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up.”⁷³

They were nothing because they didn’t have me.

“But I know...”

This is the most precious part. Our Lord knows our enemy better than we will ever know him.

“But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me.”⁷⁴

“I know it, Satan. I know when you go out against my children. I know when you come in against my children. I know your rage against my children because of me. I know it.”

This is the sovereignty of our Lord to rest in. He knows our enemy.

Many times in sporting events teams get caught having the playbook of the other team. It comes out later why they won with such ease. It is like they knew our plays. It was true. They cheated.

Well, it is isn’t cheating with our Lord because he has formed all of it. He has created all of it for its day and for his glory.

“Because thy rage against me and thy tumult is come up into mine ears, therefore I will put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.”⁷⁵

That is the only way that Satan is going to flee from us. And that is the Lord puts his hook in his nose and he hooks him and he drives him far from us. And how is it we do that? How is it we do that? We can’t. But we are told, well, if we resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Yeah, in what strength?

⁷² 2 Kings 19:25.

⁷³ 2 Kings 19:26.

⁷⁴ 2 Kings 19:27.

⁷⁵ 2 Kings 19:28.

I always love that. They always asked the disciples, you know, what must I do to be saved?

And their answer was always, “Believe. Believe,” as if it lay within them to do so because Paul tells us that faith is the gift of God.

And the Lord has done it. The Lord says, “I will put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.”⁷⁶

That is how he is repelled.

See, there is nothing here for us. We can’t fight him. We don’t have that. Outside of Christ we are nothing. But with me you can do all things.

And why is that? Because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. That little he is Satan. He is in the world. The big he is the Lord in us.

And now to Hezekiah the Lord’s voice turns and he says, “And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such things as grow of themselves, and in the second year that which springeth of the same; and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruits thereof.”⁷⁷

Notice the progression. Notice how it is not all given at once. Notice how the Lord strengthens and strengthens and strengthens in him. Oh, we want it all at first. We would like to not have these attacks come back. We would not like to have these thoughts come back, but they do.

But the Lord gives fruit the first year and the second year and the third year.

“And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take root downward,”⁷⁸ downward on Christ, “and bear fruit upward,”⁷⁹ to the glory of the Lord.

Upward. They bear fruit.

“Hezekiah, this is how you will know that I have worked this. You will bear fruit.”

And the Lord’s work always bears fruit in his people.

“For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.”⁸⁰

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ 2 Kings 19:29.

⁷⁸ 2 Kings 19:30.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ 2 Kings 19:31.

We come all the way back to being all of him.

Oh, just when we have such a violent story, a violent account of Satan, it comes back to all of me, all of the Lord Jesus Christ. For in him dwells all the fullness of everything, all the blessings, all the graces of his Spirit to give sovereignly to his children.

Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD.⁸¹

We are kept. You see that? That is the only way. We are kept by the power of the Lord. We are kept by preserving grace. That is it.

And the enemy can't... our shield is over us and the enemy can't penetrate. He can't.

“For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David’s sake.”⁸²

And every child of God who is let out of this fight, out of the battles with Satan, they come to that understanding that, Lord, it was all of you. Lord, you carried me. Lord, you were my chariot that carried me through this great trial and this great fight with Satan. And as that happens and the Lord strengthens, you bear fruit.

And do you know why that is important? Because it is going to come again. And every battle down here on earth shows us how imperfect it is down here. And it weans us from this earth and it weans us from the earthly mindedness and we long to be with him. We long to be with him who delivers us in that hour and is faithful every time.

And just when we thought we were done...

“And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD...”⁸³

I want you to understand that that is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not a popular way to look at him nowadays. Everyone says, “Oh he is love, he is love.” And he is. He is perfect love to his children. But he is perfect justice and he comes with a sword. And he has [?].

And for those that are outside of him, they all have this end.

And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all

⁸¹ 2 Kings 19:32-33.

⁸² 2 Kings 19:34.

⁸³ 2 Kings 19:35.

dead corpses. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.⁸⁴

So Sennacherib saw all of his servants, he said, all of his army now has been destroyed. And he says, “You know what? I can run and I can hide and that one is stronger than me, but I am going to run and I am going to hide back in my country.”

But what did he tell Hezekiah? He will die.

“And it came to pass as he was worshipping...”⁸⁵

Oh, the hardness of man, to see the power of God, to see a God that finally he came up against and could not defeat, did it soften him? No. Because it is not of him. It is all of the Lord.

“And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia.”⁸⁶

And there we have the end.

As I said, all of this, this is the beauty of what the Lord left us in the Word and what the Holy Spirit testifies of us to us daily, that this enemy has been defeated. And although he still wanders to and fro, the Lord has won the battle, the Lord has won the war and there will be a finality to it.

One more thing I want to share with you. Very strange.

I was in the backyard yesterday mowing and I happened up on a snake and it put its head up and it frightened me, but I knew I had a new dog at the house. I am keeping Paul’s dog. And [?] she is a good dog who likes to take care of snakes. So there she was and I tried to get her to come over and she wouldn’t come. I tried to pull her by the collar and she sat down. She sat down and she would not move.

So I said, “Ok, Lord, it is going to be you and me.”

I picked up my shovel. I went over to the snake. I raised the shovel up in the air and, you know, if any of you have seen me, I get... it is not something I like to do. I brought the shovel down. I killed it. I brought the shovel down again and I killed it.

So I had adrenaline pumping, looking around and saying, “Oh, thank you, Lord.”

⁸⁴ 2 Kings 19:35-36.

⁸⁵ 2 Kings 19:37.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

But do you know what? The snake was already dead. It was already dead. It looked alive to me. It was already dead.

Maybe Natalie had already gotten it. I don't know. It was in perfect... I mean the head is up and everything, but it was dead. It didn't put up a fight at all.

And I thought about that as I was preparing for this passage and the Lord showed me, you know, what we fight against I have already defeated.

And here I am telling the Lord, "I will go. But, Lord, you have got to go with me. I will do this with you, Lord."

And he has already done it.

That is where our rest is. The Lord has already done it. May he impart that to your souls.

Dear heavenly Father, most gracious holy Lord, glorify thy name, Lord. Glorify thy name as it pleases you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.