

1 **Invasion!**

Part 3: The Path to Victory

2 **The Reign of Hezekiah**

- While the early half of Hezekiah's reign was marked by his seeking God and instituting many religious reforms, Hezekiah eventually became lifted up in pride.
- When this happened, he was at his most vulnerable, and the Assyrians invaded.
- It was, however, this invasion that would show Hezekiah his need for God and set him back on the right path.

3 **The Enemy's Tactics**

- *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* (Eph 6:12)
- As Christians we are engaged in spiritual warfare.
- A soldier would be foolish if they went into battle without making any preparation to study their opponent.

4 **The Enemy's Tactics**

- *Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; **for we are not ignorant of his designs.*** (2Co 2:10-11)
- One of the purposes for the Old Testament is to provide illustrations of or shed light upon New Testament truths.
- In the tactics that the Assyrians use, we can see some of the most deadly strategies of our own enemy.

5 **The Enemy's Tactics**

- 1) The Enemy strikes when we are at our proudest
- 2) The Enemy will use deadly lies
 - God is angry with you
 - God is not big enough to solve your problems
 - No one can help you
 - You cannot trust your authorities
- 3) The Enemy will speak your language

6 **Preparing to Meet the Enemy**

- But if we can learn from the tactics that the Assyrians use against Judah, we can also learn how to correctly respond to those based on how Hezekiah deals with the Assyrian threat.
- Although Hezekiah has initiated these hostilities by rebelling against Assyria and making an alliance with Egypt that God condemns, the way he deals with this crisis is both humble and effective.

7 **Preparing to meet the enemy**

- *And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem, he planned with his officers and his mighty men to stop the water of the springs that were outside the city; and they helped him. A great many people were gathered, and they stopped all the springs and the brook that flowed through the land, saying, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?" He set to work resolutely and built up all the wall that was broken down and raised towers upon it, and outside it he built another wall, and he strengthened the Millo in the city of David. He also made weapons and shields in abundance.* (2Ch 32:2-5)

8 **Preparing to meet the enemy**

- *And he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him. 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 took confidence from*

the words of Hezekiah king of Judah. (2Ch 32:6-8)

9  **1) Take godly counsel**


- For Hezekiah to go to others for counsel is more than simply the action of a prudent king.
- Other Judean kings have taken counsel (such as Rehobam) and not followed it, or followed only the counsel they wanted to hear.
- But Hezekiah has a reliable group of trusted advisors, and it is with their help that he prepares for battle.

10  **1) Take godly counsel**

- God has already condemned Hezekiah for making plans without taking God into account:
- *Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the LORD! (Isa 31:1)*

11  **1) Take godly counsel**

- Throughout Scripture, God condemns those who follow the counsel and the devices of men (chariots and horses) instead of the Word of God.
- Good counsel should always be backed by the Word of God and should never result in your trusting in your own flesh to get results.

12  **2) Stop up the wells**

- Hezekiah's first action is to stop up all of the wells around Jerusalem. This was a common tactic if there was an area you were expecting an enemy to invade.
- *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (Rom 13:14)*


13  **3) Dig for water**

- *This same Hezekiah closed the upper outlet of the waters of Gihon and directed them down to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works. (2Ch 32:30)*
- Even as Hezekiah stopped up the springs of the water and wells around Jerusalem, he also dug an elaborate aqueduct underground to bring water into the city.

14  **Hezekiah's Tunnel**

- This was an elaborate underground aqueduct leading from the Gihon Spring (which Hezekiah diverted) into the Pool of Siloam within the city.
- It was dug by two teams, who began tunneling at opposite ends and met in the middle.
- Hezekiah's Tunnel is one of the most interesting architectural achievements of the ancient world.

15  **Hezekiah's Tunnel**

16  **3) Dig for water**

- As believers, the most vital tool in our spiritual warfare arsenal is the Word – the *rhema* – of God.
- *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the **word**... (Eph 5:25-26)*

17  **3) Dig for water**

- *...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God... (Eph 6:17)*
- The only way to get *rhemas* is to spend time in the Word of God and actively search for specific applications of biblical truths.
- It is the *rhema* of God that will counter the lies of the enemy.

18  **4) Build up walls**

- Since the time of King Uzziah, several of the walls around Jerusalem have been broken down, leaving the city vulnerable to attack.
- Walls serve one of two purposes:
 - To keep people out, or;
 - To keep people in

- While walls do not ensure a city's survival, they do prevent its capture by sudden assault.

19  **4) Build up walls**

- "Walls" are the safeguards that we place in ourselves to prevent us from falling into temptation.
- These are passive measures, not final solutions.
- It is not enough for us to merely build walls. However, setting up safeguards before the attack hits will at least enable you to stay in the fight.

20  **5) Reinforce strongholds**

- Scripture tells us that Hezekiah built up the "Millo" of David in Jerusalem.
- This "Millo" was a citadel in the midst of the city. In many ways it could be considered the defenders' last stand.
- If, and only if, they lost the walls and the fighting within the city itself went poorly, they would retreat to the Millo.

21  **5) Reinforce strongholds**

- Although we are called to fight and resist most kinds of spiritual warfare, there is once specific exception where we are told to retreat.
- *So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (2Ti 2:22)*

22  **5) Reinforce strongholds**

- "Flee... But follow..."
 - Righteousness – The righteousness of Christ
 - Faith – Hebrews 11
 - Love – Demonstrating genuine love instead of debasing lust
 - Peace – A Clear Conscience before God

23  **5) Reinforce strongholds**

- You need to have a "millo" in your life – somewhere to flee to.
- "With them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."
 - It is not enough to know whether or not to flee – you must also have someone to flee to
 - This should be someone who is already walking before the Lord with a pure heart