

A scroll with text on a wooden floor background. The scroll is unrolled, showing a light brown, textured surface. The text is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background is a wooden floor with vertical planks.

SPREAD IT OUT BEFORE THE LORD

2 KINGS 19:14; ISAIAH 37:14

From Bad to Good:

- History of the Kings in Samaria and Judah (BIOY July 8th O.T. Commentary)
 - The history of this period in the book of 2 Kings could be summed up in the words ‘*not listen*’: ‘They would *not listen*... They would *not listen*’ (17:14,40). All the problems the kings and the people of God faced were the result of *not listening* to God.
 - The writer of 1 and 2 Kings gives us a thumbnail assessment of whether each king did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Every one of the kings of Israel is described as doing ‘evil in the eyes of the Lord’ (2 Kings 17:2), and it leads to the early destruction of the kingdom (v.8).
 - In contrast, around half of the kings of Judah are described in broadly positive terms, and around half in broadly negative terms. Under the ‘good’ kings Judah flourished, and its history is much longer and more positive than Israel’s. The reigns of the ‘good’ kings were generally longer than those of the ‘evil’ kings. The twelve evil kings reigned for a combined total of 130 years, whereas the ten good kings reigned for a total of 343 years. **The ‘good’ kings still faced all kinds of difficulties and challenges, and following God is no guarantee of an easy life.** Yet their example is a powerful reminder of the blessings and wisdom of listening to and following God.
 - **Hezekiah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. 2 Kings 18:3 and 2 Chronicles 29:2**



The good Hezekiah did:

1. He opened the doors of the house of the Lord and repaired them (2 Chronicles 29:3)
2. He gathered the priests and Levites and ordered them to prepare to worship and serve in the Temple (2 Chronicles 29:4-11)
3. He supervised the sacrifices and offerings (2 Chronicles 29:20-24)
4. He led the people in worship (2 Chronicles 29:25-29)
5. He celebrated the Passover (2 Chronicles 30)
 - Messengers were sent to invite the people (2 Chronicles 30:6)
 - The people came, but they had not been purified (2 Chronicles 30:18)
 - Still, the king did not cast them out, but he prayed for them (2 Chronicles 30:18, 19)
 - God was pleased and He healed the people (2 Chronicles 30:20)
6. The people returned home and they purified their cities (2 Chronicles 31:1)
7. He reestablished a system of contributions for the Temple (2 Chronicles 31:11)
8. **All this was good and right before the Lord (2 Chronicles 31:20)**



Just because we do things good or right doesn't exempt us from trouble!

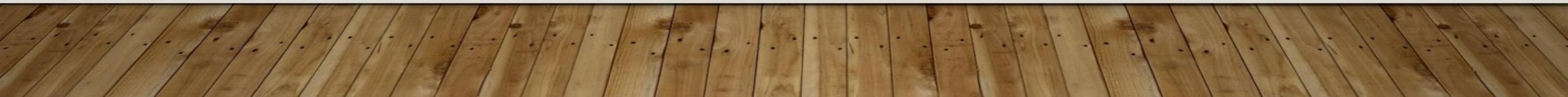
- 46 fortified cities of Judah had been captured
- Around 200,000 people had been taken captive
- The kingdom of Israel had been defeated
- Now the Assyrian army was at the doors of Jerusalem
- **2 Chron 32:1 After these things and these acts of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah and encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them for himself.**

ESV

When money isn't enough!

2 Kings 18:13-16 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, King Sennacherib of Assyria came to attack the fortified towns of Judah and conquered them. 14 King Hezekiah sent this message to the king of Assyria at Lachish: "I have done wrong. I will pay whatever tribute money you demand if you will only withdraw." The king of Assyria then demanded a settlement of more than eleven tons of silver and one ton of gold. 15 To gather this amount, King Hezekiah used all the silver stored in the Temple of the Lord and in the palace treasury. 16 Hezekiah even stripped the gold from the doors of the Lord's Temple and from the doorposts he had overlaid with gold, and he gave it all to the Assyrian king. NLT

In present day currency it is estimated at: Silver \$5,491,200 Gold \$39,539,200



When you have done all you can, Stand

- 2 Chron 32:1-8 After Hezekiah had faithfully carried out this work, King Sennacherib of Assyria invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified towns, giving orders for his army to break through their walls. 2 When Hezekiah realized that Sennacherib also intended to attack Jerusalem, 3 he consulted with his officials and military advisers, and they decided to stop the flow of the springs outside the city. 4 They organized a huge work crew to stop the flow of the springs, cutting off the brook that ran through the fields. For they said, "Why should the kings of Assyria come here and find plenty of water?" 5 Then Hezekiah worked hard at repairing all the broken sections of the wall, erecting towers, and constructing a second wall outside the first. He also reinforced the supporting terraces in the City of David and manufactured large numbers of weapons and shields. 6 He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them before him in the square at the city gate.
- **Then Hezekiah encouraged them by saying: 7 "Be strong and courageous! Don't be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria or his mighty army, for there is a power far greater on our side! 8 He may have a great army, but they are merely men. We have the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles for us!" Hezekiah's words greatly encouraged the people.**

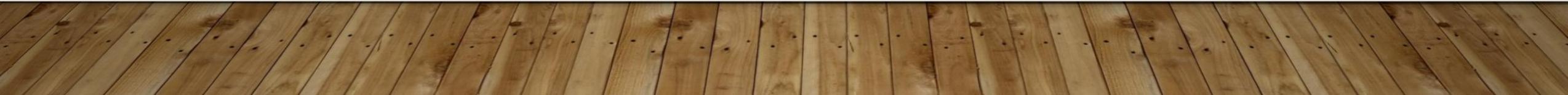


Foundations are built in the good times and tested in the bad times:

- 2 Kings 18:4-7 He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). 5 He trusted in the Lord the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him. 6 For he held fast to the Lord. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses. ESV
 1. He removed the idols that others were trusting in!
 2. Hezekiah wholeheartedly "*trusted*" in the Lord
 3. Hezekiah tenaciously "*held fast*" to the Lord
 4. Hezekiah steadfastly followed the Lord
 5. Hezekiah kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses

A songwriter rightly expressed it like this :

Trust and obey for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey



Verbal Threats from the enemy:

- 2 Kings 18:20 “On what do you rest this trust of yours” “Do you think mere words are strategy and power for war?”
- vs. 21 Are you now trusting in Egypt?
- 2 Kings 18:22-23 But if you say to me, "We trust in the Lord our God," is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, "You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem"? ESV (Sennacherib’s pagan theology)
- 2 Kings 18:23-24 Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them. 24 How then can you repulse a single captain among the least of my master's servants, when you trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?
- 25 Moreover, is it without the Lord that I have come up against this place to destroy it? The Lord said to me, Go up against this land, and destroy it." ESV

The threats get Louder

- 2 Kings 18:28-31 Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah: "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria! 29 Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you out of my hand. 30 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.' 31 Do not listen to Hezekiah, ESV



Just Surrender

- 2 Kings 18:31-32 or thus says the king of Assyria: 'Make your peace with me and come out to me. Then each one of you will eat of his own vine, and each one of his own fig tree, and each one of you will drink the water of his own cistern, 32 until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey, that you may live, and not die. ESV

Nothing or no one can save you

- 2 Kings 18:32-35 And do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you by saying, The Lord will deliver us. 33 Has any of the gods of the nations ever delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? 34 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Seph-arvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? 35 Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?" ESV

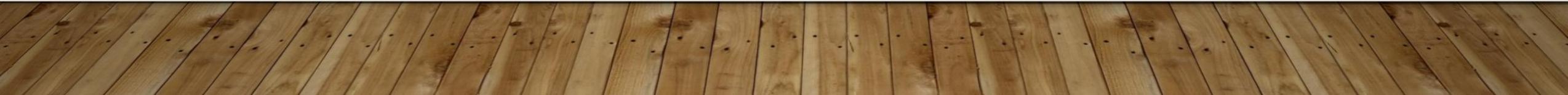
Don't waste your breath responding to the enemy!

- 2 Kings 18:36-37 But the people were silent and answered him not a word, for the king's command was, "Do not answer him." 37 Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn and told him the words of the Rabshakeh. ESV



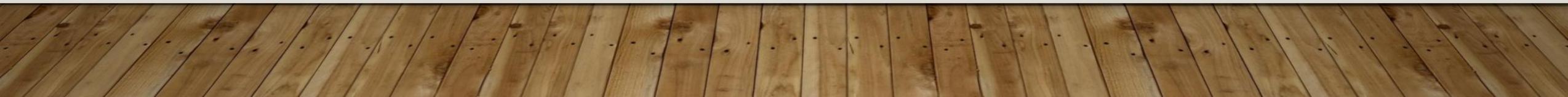
3 Situations and 3 Kinds of Response

1. 2 Kings 19:1-4 When King Hezekiah heard their report, **he tore his clothes and put on burlap and went into the Temple of the Lord.** 2 And he sent **Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the court secretary, and the leading priests, all dressed in burlap, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.** 3 They told him, "This is what King Hezekiah says: **Today is a day of trouble, insults, and disgrace. It is like when a child is ready to be born, but the mother has no strength to deliver the baby.** 4 But perhaps the **Lord your God** has heard the Assyrian chief of staff, sent by the king to defy the living God, and will punish him for his words. Oh, pray for those of us who are left!" NLT
 - In the ESV twice Hezekiah used the phrase “your God.”
 - Modern day might be call the pastor, call the prayer chain! Both would be good things to do but isn’t a substitute for you personally getting before the Lord and praying yourself.
 - Hezekiah did the right things tearing his clothes, putting on sackcloth and going to the temple, but it might appear he thought the prophet (professional) might have a better connection.
 - Don’t wait till a major crisis comes to develop your life in Christ!
 - **2 Kings 19:5-7 The Prophet responds**



2. **2 Kings 19:8-19** Meanwhile, the Assyrian chief of staff left Jerusalem and went to consult the king of Assyria, who had left Lachish and was attacking Libnah. 9 Soon afterward King Sennacherib received word that King Tirhakah of Ethiopia was leading an army to fight against him. Before leaving to meet the attack, he sent messengers back to Hezekiah in Jerusalem with this message:10 "This message is for King Hezekiah of Judah. Don't let your God, in whom you trust, deceive you with promises that Jerusalem will not be captured by the king of Assyria. 11 You know perfectly well what the kings of Assyria have done wherever they have gone. They have completely destroyed everyone who stood in their way! Why should you be any different? 12 Have the gods of other nations rescued them—such nations as Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Tel-assar? My predecessors destroyed them all! 13 What happened to the king of Hamath and the king of Arpad? What happened to the kings of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?"

- Isaiah had already given Hezekiah a message of what the Lord was going to do.
- The king now sends a letter to Hezekiah:
 - “Don't let your God, in whom you trust, deceive you with promises that Jerusalem will not be captured by the king of Assyria.”
 - He re-emphasizes all the military conquest the Assyrians have accomplished and added places and names!

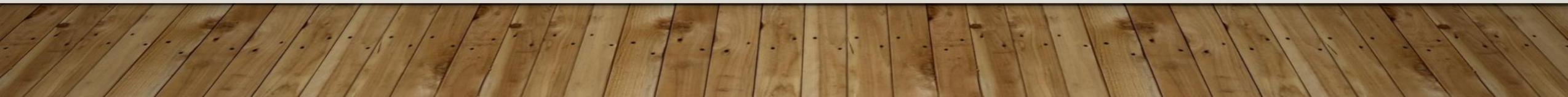


14 After Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it, he went up to the Lord's Temple and spread it out before the Lord.

- Notice how different the response is:
 - He didn't call anyone else or seek counsel for someone else.
 - He went directly to the temple and he spread it out before the Lord.
 - Sandy's impression when we were worshipping and praying.
 - Duane's statement to me "On the paper out of the mind" You would be surprised at how much more comes when you start writing it out.
- Notice how he prayed:

15 And Hezekiah prayed this prayer before the Lord: "O Lord, God of Israel, you are enthroned between the mighty cherubim! You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the earth. You alone created the heavens and the earth. 16 Bend down, O Lord, and listen! Open your eyes, O Lord, and see! Listen to Sennacherib's words of defiance against the living God. 17 "It is true, Lord, that the kings of Assyria have destroyed all these nations. 18 And they have thrown the gods of these nations into the fire and burned them. But of course, the Assyrians could destroy them! They were not gods at all—only idols of wood and stone shaped by human hands. 19 Now, O Lord our God, rescue us from his power; then all the kingdoms of the earth will know that you alone, O Lord, are God."

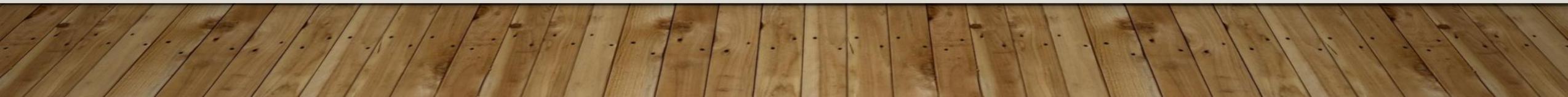
- For someone in such a state, we expected him to plead with God and tell Him how BIG his problem is. Instead, we have him telling us how BIG his God is. Hezekiah acknowledges the greatness of his God.
 - He is the God of ISRAEL. He is enthroned between the cherubim (angels), which is the picture of the mercy seat above the Ark of the Covenant.
 - He alone is the living God and the Sovereign Lord over all the kingdoms of the earth (including Assyria). He's the mighty Creator of heaven and earth.
- What exactly are we looking at in a crisis? Our hopeless situation? Our difficult circumstances? Or are we looking up to God?
- We pray and focus on our problems; Hezekiah prays and sees the sovereign God enthroned.
- We pray and focus on our circumstances; Hezekiah prays and sees God's rule over all the kingdoms of the earth.
- We pray and focus on what we want. Hezekiah prays that through God's deliverance all kingdoms on earth may know that He alone is God. (19:19).
- When we pray, we tend to tell God our big problems. Turn it around. "Tell" the problem that we have a BIG God.
- Pray with our eyes on God, not the problems. **The longer we stare at our difficulties, the bigger they become, in our minds. The bigger they seem.**
- **2 Kings 19:20-37** Isaiah prophesies again the fall of Sennacherib and the signs that will follow.



3. 2 Kings 20:1-6 About that time Hezekiah became deathly ill, and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to visit him. He gave the king this message: "**This is what the Lord says: Set your affairs in order, for you are going to die.** You will not recover from this illness."

2 When Hezekiah heard this, he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, 3 "Remember, O Lord, how I have always been faithful to you and have served you single-mindedly, always doing what pleases you." Then he broke down and wept bitterly.4 But before Isaiah had left the middle courtyard, this message came to him from the Lord: 5 "Go back to Hezekiah, the leader of my people. Tell him, 'This is what the Lord, the God of your ancestor David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will heal you, and three days from now you will get out of bed and go to the Temple of the Lord. 6 I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my own honor and for the sake of my servant David.'"

- What would we do if we knew that we were truly going to die?
- **2 When Hezekiah heard this, he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord,** 3 "Remember, O Lord, how I have always been faithful to you and have served you single-mindedly, always doing what pleases you." Then he broke down and wept bitterly



- It is a natural instinct for a man to want to live and not die. God made man to be immortal. But sin introduced death to mankind. In his distress Hezekiah turns from everything around him and cries out to God.
- When a man gets to despair, he knows that all his thinking will never get him out, he will only get out by the sheer creative effort of God; consequently, he is in the right attitude to receive from God that which he cannot gain for himself. - Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)
- It is when we are out of options that we are most ready for God's surprises. – Max L. Lucado
- One is never ready to live until he is ready to die.

What will you take away from here today? Did God speak something to you about where you are in relationship with Him?

- Do we think someone else has more connection or clout with the Lord than we do?
- How will we cry out or pray when we are up against something there is no humanly possible a way out?
- Do we know or understand what it means to turn our face to the wall and really cry out to the Lord?

