

2 CHRONICLES 32:1-23

ASSYRIAN'S FAILED SEIGE OF JERUSALEM

1 After these acts of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He encamped against the fortified cities, intending to break into them for himself.

2 When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to wage war against Jerusalem, 3 he consulted with his officers and warriors about blocking the waters of the springs outside the city, and they supported him.

4 Many people assembled and blocked off all the springs and the raging wadi in the land saying, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find plenty of water?"

5 Then he took courage and rebuilt the entire wall that had been broken down, raised up the towers, added another outer wall, fortified the Millo in the city of David, and made plenty of weapons and shields.

6 He also appointed military officers over the people and assembled them before him in the square at the city gate, and encouraged them saying,

7 "Chazak! Be courageous! Do not be afraid or dismayed by the king of Assyria and the whole horde that is with him—for we have more with us than he has with him!

8 With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is *Adonai Eloheinu* to help us and to fight our battles." So the people were encouraged by the words of King Hezekiah of Judah.

9 After this, when King Sennacherib of Assyria, while he and all his forces with him were besieging Lachish, sent his servants to Jerusalem to Hezekiah king of Judah and to all Judah who were in Jerusalem, saying:

10 "Thus says King Sennacherib of Assyria, 'What are you relying on that you would stay in Jerusalem, under siege?

11 Is not Hezekiah misleading you, to let you die by famine and thirst, saying, '*Adonai Eloheinu* will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria?'

12 Has not the same Hezekiah removed His high places and His altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem saying, 'You shall worship before one altar and upon it you shall burn incense?'

13 Do not you know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of the lands? Were the gods of the nations of the lands ever able to deliver their land out of my hand?

14 Who among all the gods of these nations—which my fathers utterly destroyed—could deliver his people from my hand? How then is your God able to deliver you from my hand?

15 So now, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or mislead you like this. Do not believe him, for no god of any nation or any kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand and from the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you from my hand!"

16 His servants spoke further against *Adonai Elohim* and against His servant Hezekiah.

17 Sennacherib also wrote letters reviling *Adonai*, the God of Israel, speaking against Him saying, "Just as the gods of the nations of the lands have not delivered their people from my hand, so the God of Hezekiah shall not deliver His people from my hand."

18 Then they cried out loudly in Hebrew to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall to terrify and frighten them, in order to capture the city.

19 They spoke against the God of Jerusalem as of the gods of the peoples of the earth made by human hands.

20 Then King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz prayed about this and cried out to heaven.

21 Then *Adonai* sent an angel who annihilated every mighty warrior, commander and officer in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he withdrew in disgrace to his own land. When he entered the house of his god some of his own children struck him down with the sword.

22 Thus *Adonai* delivered Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all, and helped them in every way.

23 Many brought offerings to *Adonai* in Jerusalem and valuable gifts to King Hezekiah of Judah. From then on he was highly regarded in the eyes of all the nations.

Yahweh Our God Is With Us

Yesterday, in the first moments of consciousness, my head was filled with thoughts of my failings in my walk with God. This initially appeared to be conviction to change, but it came with despair, rather than power to motivate. I was taken in for some time and it seemed that throughout my day, my thoughts presented previously forgiven sins as further burdens on my mood. It didn't help that the limitations of the current situation made me feel more useless than ever.

On reading the above passage from second Chronicles, the Holy Spirit showed me that I had "a Sennacherib" on my tail. One of the Enemy's minions had been publishing its doomsaying into my spiritual ears! What a Wally, I felt!

I suspect I'm not the only believer in VoWH who has been hearing the whisperings of the minions of this present Darkness. Whisperings, perhaps, that we wouldn't be able to keep Cornerstone running. That it would be impractical, or that the finance would dry up, or maybe that the virus would keep folks from visiting?

Well, Our God is the same God of Jerusalem, *City of Peace*, that is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all we can ask, think or imagine! Verse 20 has the response appropriate for us, as sons and daughters of the Living God - "Then King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz prayed about this and cried out to heaven."

We too have a King, who intercedes for us at the Father's right hand! He is "The Prophet, like unto Moses" and as we cry out to Him he hears us and will send all those "Sennacherib's" packing, shamefaced, to their place of origin! He will ensure the protection of this mission and He will supply all our needs according to His glorious riches! For who can resist the will of the Living God?

Romans 8

31 What then shall we say in view of these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things?

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

34 Who is the one who condemns? It is Messiah, who died, and moreover was raised, and is now at the right hand of God and who also intercedes for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Messiah? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

36 As it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter."

37 But in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Messiah *Yeshua* our Lord.

Hazak, hazak, v'nit'chazek!

Be strong, be strong, and let us be strengthened!

For Yahweh Our God is with Us