

# PRAYING VICTORIOUSLY IN BATTLE

(FROM THE LIFE OF HEZEKIAH)



## DISCOVER

- ◆ Hezekiah's Rumble
- ◆ Hezekiah's Response
- ◆ Hezekiah's Reward

**"And Hezekiah the King and the Prophet Isaiah prayed and cried to Heaven." (II Chronicles 32:1-23)**

**Bill Kirk**

# **“PRAYING VICTORIOUSLY IN BATTLE”**

(II Chronicles 32:1-23)

**Text:** “After these things, and the establishment thereof, Sennacherib King of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself...and Hezekiah the King, and the Prophet Isaiah **prayed and cried to heaven.**” (V. 1, 20)

## **Revival Invites Opposition**

(Five Great Revivals Are Listed in II Chronicles)

1. Under Asa (Chapter 15)
2. Under Jehoshaphat (Chapter 20)
3. Under Joash (Chapter 23, 24)
4. Under Hezekiah (Chapter 29-31)
5. Under Josiah (Chapter 35)

## **Hezekiah’s Great Progress**

**In Chapter 29:** There were closed doors (no service).  
The lamps were out (no witness).  
The incense altar was cold (no prayer).

(But Hezekiah’s formula for revival was simple.)

- ◆ Sanctification (the people were cleansed).
- ◆ Sacrifice (the priests offered sacrifices).
- ◆ Song (the song of the Lord was sung).

**In Chapter 30:** The Passover was celebrated:

- ◆ The priests delayed the event (V.3)
- ◆ Some people laughed and mocked (V. 10)
- ◆ But God blessed abundantly and sent the people home rejoicing (V. 21, 23, 25, 26)

**In Chapter 31:** The people gave sacrificially  
The priesthood was reformed  
The work was blessed of God (V. 21)

## **Now the Enemy Invasion**

**Fact:** Opposition always comes with progress!

**Fact:** Obstacles are a part of kingdom living!

**Fact:** Obstructions will attempt to derail you!

**But when the enemy comes in like a flood:**

(God has a victory planned)

II Chronicles 32

### **I. Hezekiah’s Rumble**

“Sennacherib, King of Assyria entered into Judah, thinking to win them for

himself." (V. 1)

**Fact:** The enemy invades the people of God.

**Fact:** The enemy waits to foil the plan of God.

- ◆ The powerful Assyrian army took the outlying fenced cities and came to the very gates of Jerusalem. (V. 9-15)
- ◆ Rabshakeh (II Kings 18:19) made loud threats, but God's people stood firm (V. 16-19).
- ◆ Sennacherib took siege of Lachish some 25 miles S.W. of Jerusalem (V.9)

### **Tactics the Enemy Uses**

Both Then and Now.

#### **1. The Enemy Promotes Doubt.**

"Thus saith Sennacherib, whereon do ye trust?" (V. 10)

**Fact:** The enemy said to God's people, "It is foolish to trust in the Lord."

**Fact:** But the truth is, faith still moves mountains!

#### **2. The Enemy Promotes Dread.**

"You're going to die by famine and thirst." (V. 11)

**Fact:** The enemy attempted to put the fear of death in the children of God.

**Fact:** But the truth is, faith in God will remove every fear of the enemy!

#### **3. The Enemy Promotes Deception.**

"Don't you know what I've done to all the people of other lands?" (V. 13)

**Fact:** The enemy attempts to deceive Hezekiah by looking at other failures.

**Fact:** But the truth is, we look unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith (our eyes are fixed).

#### **4. The Enemy Attempts to Discredit.**

"Don't believe Hezekiah and let him persuade you on this manner." (V. 15)

**Fact:** The enemy attempts to discredit the leadership through slander and evil reports.

**Fact:** When the truth is, "Whoever privately slanders his neighbor, him will I cut off." (Psalm 101:5)

"He shall gnash with his teeth and melt away." (Psalm 112:10)

"He disappoints the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise." (Job 5:12)

#### **5. The Enemy Attempts To Discourage.**

"He wrote also letters to rail on the Lord God of Israel; God will not deliver his people out of mine hand." (V. 17)

**Fact:** The enemy is attempting to **discourage** and **dishearten** the people of God.

**Fact:** But the truth is, we have a letter from God that is greater than any letter from carnal men.

**6. The Enemy Attempts to Distract.**

"Then they cried with a loud voice to affright them and trouble them." (V. 18)

**Fact:** The enemy screams and yells to divert and distract the people of God.

**Fact:** When the truth is, our warfare is not with flesh and blood, but with spiritual forces in the unseen world!

**Question:** Why does the enemy want to distract you from prayer and your focus upon God?

**Question:** How does the enemy distract from the place of prayer?

**Question:** What is the enemy (Sennacherib) trying to do to Hezekiah?

### **The Final Mistake**

**7. The Enemy Defies God.**

"And they spake against the God of Jerusalem." (V. 19)

## **II. Hezekiah's Response**

Discover how Hezekiah responds to the enemy invasion, see how he responds with purpose instead of panic.

**1. Hezekiah Counsels with His Mighty Men. (V. 3)**

He is humble enough to ask for help.

He is humble enough to ask for advice.

He is humble enough to receive instruction.

**2. Hezekiah Strengthens Himself (V. 5)**

He builds up the broken wall.

He raised up the towers.

He prepared ahead of time for battle.

**3. Hezekiah Gathers The Team Together (V. 6)**

He refuses to isolate himself.

He refuses to fly solo.

He refuses to carry the ball alone.

**4. Hezekiah focuses on God. (V. 7,8)**

"Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor discouraged; for there be 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." (V. 7, 8)

"And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah." (V. 8)

**Are You Resting:**

- ◆ Upon the Word of the Lord?
- ◆ Upon the truth of the Word?
- ◆ Upon the God of the Word?
- ◆ Upon the faithfulness of your Father?
- ◆ Upon the wisdom and strength of Jesus?

**5. Hezekiah Prays, But Not Alone** (V. 20)

"Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed and cried to heaven."

**Question:** Why did they go to prayer?

**Question:** What happens in the place of prayer?

**Question:** How does prayer dictate the outcome?

**Question:** Where is the victory found?

**III. Hezekiah's Reward**

"And the Lord sent an angel which cut off all the mighty men of valor, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. Thus the Lord saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and guided them on every side." (V. 21, 22)

**Our Victory Is In Prayer**

(When the enemy comes in like a flood)

1. Prayer will focus our hearts on the Lord.
2. Prayer will guard our hearts and minds.
3. Prayer will lead us to One higher than ourselves.
4. Prayer will enable us to respond God's way.
5. Prayer will bring God into the picture.
6. Prayer will strengthen us for the battle.
7. Prayer will replace panic, fear and unbelief.

Amen!  
Bill Kirk