

**SO YOU GOT
SOME HATE MAIL!**

2 KINGS 19:14-16

(MARCHING THROUGH 2 KINGS)

KING HEZEKIAH'S LIFE PROVED THAT A CHILD CAN RISE ABOVE THEIR PARENTS' MISTAKES!

- King Hezekiah began to rule Judah after his father died and was very successful. His father, Ahaz, was described as an evil king (2 Kings 16:2-4); But Hezekiah, his son in scripture, was a breath of fresh air to Judah (Jesus' tribe)

2 Kings 18:3 “And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done...”

Verse 5 “For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following him, but kept his commandments which the Lord had commanded Moses. The Lord was with him; he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve (pay) him.

OBSERVATIONS

Hezekiah's mother was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah (2 Kings 18:2), who was the faithful witness used by Isaiah (Isaiah 8:2)

Righteous parents and grandparents can go a long way in promoting their children's and grandchildren's spiritual development

COMPROMISING WITH SATAN IS DANGEROUS BUSINESS!



- In 2 Kings 18:13 the King of Assyria attacked and conquered several cities in Judah. Jerusalem was next!
- In order to rectify the situation, Hezekiah offered to restart payment (tributes) to the Assyrian King, Sennacherib. Verse 13 says that he demanded 11 tons of silver and 1 ton of gold, to leave Judah alone; but when the money was given, the Assyrian king didn't withdraw his troops from Judah
- Remember that when children of God compromise with Satan, he is not a compromiser

He wants all of you like God does; that's why he took Judah's money but didn't leave Judah's territory

SEVERAL BIBLICAL CHARACTERS WHO COMPROMISED WITH SATAN AND LOST!

- Lot, Abraham's nephew compromised where his family's would live and lost them (Genesis 13 and 19) Leaders of families must know what places are dangerous for their families to live (Beware of overpowering negative influences)

- King Solomon compromised his Godliness by marrying ungodly women; 1 Kings 11:1 (Egypt, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, Hittites)

“...You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your heart after other gods.” Nevertheless Solomon held fast to them in love.” 1 Kings 11:1-2 (see 2 Corinthians 6:14)

FIRST, THERE IS VERBAL DISRESPECT FOR HEZEKIAH AND JUDAH

- The Assyrian king sends his chief of Staff, commanding officer, and field commander to an area right outside of Jerusalem, with a large army to verbally disrespect King Hezekiah and heckle him: 2 Kings 18:19-25. This is what they shouted and said:

Verse 19 “What (not who) confidence is this in which you trust?”

Verse 20 “You speak of having plans and power, for war. We only see words, and that won’t get it done when battling us.”

Verse 21 “You are depending on Egypt to help, that’s like depending on a broken stick to lean on.”

Verse 22 “You say that you trust in your God, but didn’t you just get rid of a lot of his shrines, that your previous kings made for convenience of the people? Jerusalem is your only place now.”

Verse 23 “Come and negotiate with me. If I gave you 2,000 horses, you couldn’t find enough men to ride them. *Y’all are too small! Besides, we are so powerful: your Lord told me to attack you!*”

THEN KING SENNACHERIB SENDS HATE MAIL TO KING HEZEKIAH! 2 KINGS 19:10-13

THIS IS WHAT HEZEKIAH READ

- “Don’t let your God lie to you, telling you that we will not capture Jerusalem”
- “Your God is not strong enough;” “we are too dominating for you;” “your problem is, we are big, and you are not!” “Haven’t you heard about us yet?”
- “You can look at our track record, and see the future; we’re undefeated, and we’re coming to your city!”
- “Look at all of the nations we have conquered (Gozan, Haran, Rezech, people of Eden who were in Tel-assar, Kings of Hammath, Arpad, Sepharvaim, Henna, Ivvah)”

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

THE DEVIL SENDS US HATE MAIL TOO!

- *“You can’t be forgiven of that.” “Things will never change with you.” “You always fall for the crazy excuses that your significant other will say”*
- *“Your prayers are useless.” “You know that you are not good enough.” “No one in your family was ever good enough.” “No one in your family ever succeeded that far in life.” “Only whites succeed at what you want to do”*
- *“Once people find out what you did, you are through.” “Your brother/sister will always be picked over you.” “You will never win, so get used to being a loser.” “You failed once—you’ll fail again.”*



REMEMBER: THE DEVIL IS A LIAR!

“... He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” John 8:44

- Satan wants to steal your testimony of achievement
- He tries to fool you based on your circumstances

“Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?” Matthew 26:46

“Jesus, God Doesn’t Care!”

WHAT DID HEZEKIAH DO?

#1 He Immediately Went Into the Presence of the Lord, verse 14

- Don't underestimate the power of being in the presence of the Lord
 - In Your Public Life
 - In Your Private Life
- Welcome God into all of phases your life!
Psalms 139:7-10

#2 HEZEKIAH PLACED THE HATE MAIL BEFORE THE LORD AND PRAYED OVER IT! 2 KINGS 19:14-19

- **When we receive difficult communication, the next thing to do, is to spread it out before the Lord**

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.”

1 Peter 5:6-7

- **It is impossible for me to convey to you the tension that must have existed here: the enemy outside, his people inside; his decision was critical**



HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER COVERED FOUR AREAS!

- #1 He mentions God's Power, verse 15 -
It's always good to consider who God is (who we are actually talking to) when we pray. He the sole creator of Heaven and Earth. There is no other source of appeal for us
- #2 He then mentions the problem, verse 16-
"I'm living right and I have a problem." *"Look at what King Sennacherib wrote, insulting your position as the ruler of Heaven and Earth and that you are incapable of intervening in the affairs of men"*
- #3 He mentions his position, verses 17, 18-
Hezekiah says that Sennacherib says, "we are next!" "But Lord aren't we different?" "We are your children!"

OBSERVATIONS

#4 He mentions God's reputation, verse 19

- **God had promised David that Christ would be born through his tribe, Judah, Acts 2:30**
- **If King Sennacherib had destroyed Judah, that promise could not come true. *“So let the world know who you are!”***
- **Did you know that God stakes part of His reputation on his ability to deliver us? What makes Him different from other religions is his ability to deliver! (Philippians 4:19, Romans 8:37-39 ... *we are more than conquerors*)**

OBSERVATIONS

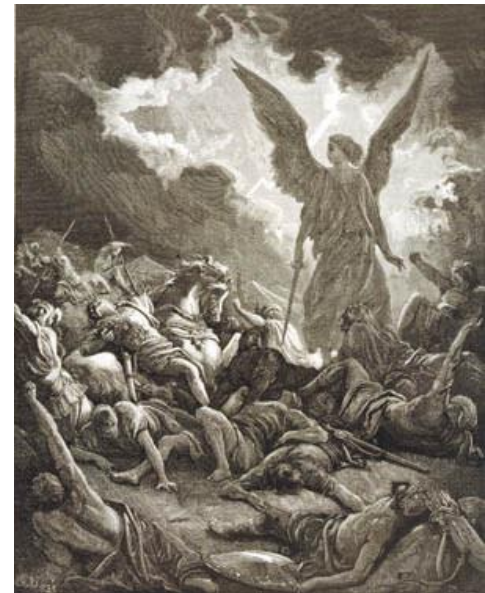
*But For Our Prayers to Be Answered
Consistently, We Must Live Right!*

- *2 Kings 18:3, 5-6, Concerning Hezekiah -“none like him before or since”*
- *1 Peter 3:12, “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And his ears are open to their prayers....”*
- *Romans 12:19, “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord*

**GOD’S LOVE FOR US WILL NOT
CONSISTENTLY REWARD GOOD FOR EVIL!**

HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER HEARD!

- **Isaiah tells Hezekiah that God will answer your hate mail!**
- **2 Kings 19:35 says that night, while Sennacherib surrounded Jerusalem, God killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers (imagine next morning's roll call!)**
- **2 Kings 19:36, Sennacherib retreated and went straight back home to his capital, Nineveh and didn't leave**
- **Later, two of his own sons murdered him and ran away, leaving a third son to take daddy's now vacated position. Verse 37; Proverbs 30:5**



THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38