

What Hezekiah Teaches Us About Prayer

II Chron. 32:1-2

Introduction



How did King Hezekiah get through this crisis, and how do his actions stand as a model for us today, as we look at his prayer to God.

- In 701 B.C., the fierce, cruel Assyrian army led by King Sennacherib had invaded Judah, and set its sights on Jerusalem. (II Ki. 18:13-14)
- Dominated and terrorized the ancient world from 745 B.C. to 612 B.C. None were able to stand in their way.
- As it approached and Jerusalem, the situation seemed bleak for King Hezekiah and the Jews.
- The Jews were not in position to oppose them militarily. It appeared as if the city would fall, the people would be either annihilated, tortured or captured.
- There was great fear and trepidation.
- Yet under King Hezekiah, the city survived and prospered.
- How did the King react in such a time of trouble and distress and what are the lessons for us today?



00-010101 The Stone According to the Old Testament



God Hears The Prayers Of The Righteous

- The need to have a proper concept of prayer.
 - Prayer is based on a covenant relationship with God. (Heb. 10:15-18)
 - Those who are God's people have entered into a covenant relationship with Him – a binding agreement.
 - God promises to forgive, be with, strengthen, and ultimately deliver those who are faithful to Him. To hear their prayers.
 - We, in entering that covenant relationship promise God our love, loyalty and whole-hearted devotion. In the context of that relationship, God's people have the privilege of prayer.
 - Before we go to God in prayer, must strive to be faithful to Him.

God Hears The Prayers Of The Righteous

- Consider the following scriptures:
 - Pro. 15:8 → 8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight. ...
 - Prov. 15:29 → The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.
 - 1Pe 3:12 → 12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.
 - Jas 5:16 → The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

God Hears The Prayers Of The Righteous

- The righteous activity of Hezekiah in II Chron. 29
 - Repairs and cleanses the temple. (29:3ff)
 - Confesses sins of the forefathers. (29:6ff)
 - Renews the covenant. (29:10ff)
 - Restores the priesthood. (29:4,7,11,12ff)
 - Restores worship of God. (29:20-31ff)
 - Proclaims and observes the Passover. (30; cf. vv. 26-27)
 - Tears down the idols. (31:1ff)

20 And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the LORD his God. 21 And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.

He Did What He Could About The Matter

- II 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.
 - God provided Hezekiah with a test to show his faithfulness, to demonstrate his love and commitment to the Lord...to expose weaknesses. (32:31)
- The actions Hezekiah began to take...
 - Takes counsel, stops the waters outside the city to deprive the Assyrians. (32:2-4)
 - Repairs the walls, the fortress and prepares weapons. (32:5)
 - Encourages his people, reminds them that God is with them. (32:6-8)

He Did What He Could About The Matter

- We need to do what is in our power to do...
 - Jesus taught: Matt. 6:11 → 11 Give us this day our daily bread,
 - Paul wrote: 2Thess. 3:10 → 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.
- Illustrated:
 - Esther 4:14 → Mordecai and Esther...Deliverance for the Jews
 - Genesis 41:33-36 → Joseph...Store grain. (cf. 50:20)
 - James 5:14-15 → regarding the sick. (Matt. 9:12)
 - Rom. 10:1-3 → regarding the lost. (Acts 8:1-4)
 - James 1:5-6 → concerning wisdom. (Prov. 2:6)
 - James 2:14-17 → concerning the needy.

Hezekiah Took The Matter To God In Detail...

- The King of Assyria sent his messengers to threaten Jerusalem, mock God, and seek surrender.
- The response of Hezekiah:
 - II Chron. 32:20 → 20 Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven.
 - Isa. 37:14 → Hezekiah took the letter from the messengers and read it. Then Hezekiah went up to the Lord's temple and spread it out before the Lord.
 - Hezekiah takes the specifics of the trouble to God in prayer.
 - God already knows: (Matt. 6:8; 10:29)
 - Prayer is not to inform God about our problems, troubles, but to manifest our faith and humility.
 - Recognizing our dependence on Him, and our faith that He is all-powerful, hears and answers prayers.
 - The heart that God respects is humble. (Lk. 18:9-14; I Pet. 5:5-7)

I Pet. 5:5-7

- 5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all [of you] be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Hezekiah Sought The Glory of God

- Isa. 37:15-20 → 15 And Hezekiah prayed unto the LORD, saying,
- 16 O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, [even] thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.
- 17 Incline thine ear, O LORD, and hear; open thine eyes, O LORD, and see: and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God.
- 18 Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations, and their countries,
- 19 And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them.
- 20 Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only.