

The former and late president of CIU, Robertson McQuilkin, once said that if something is said once in Scripture it is important and needs our attention. But if something is said repeatedly, then we had better *sit up* and pay extra special attention!

Seeking the Lord, staying dependent upon Him is saturated throughout Scripture. So, may it be something that we all “sit up and pay extra special attention.”

KING HEZEKIAH

King Hezekiah reigned king in Judah about 100 years after Jehoshaphat.

Quest. What was King Hezekiah like? **Read 2 Kings 18:5-6** →v.6 KJ “Clave”; NIV “held fast”, NASB “Clung”-**Hebrew:** dibaq (daw-bak)=to cling, stick to, follow closely, be stuck to, join to. That is a picture of being dependent!! **ILLUST.** The Hebrew word may be like Super Clue—Have you ever super clued your fingers? One lady had super glue in her bathroom medicine cabinet, and she took it, put it in her eyes, thinking she was putting Visine in her eyes!!

Assyria was the dominant power of the World for some 300 years. (**Show PP slide of Assyria’s world domination**). Egypt was probably the #2 world power.

During Hezekiah’s early reign, Assyria had destroyed and exiled the northern kingdom of Israel back to Assyria. And both the Hezekiah and his people witnessed it! Less than 10 years later, the Assyrians were back again, with their king Sennacherib leading the invasion. In fact, he was already attacking and defeating many Judah cites. **Quest.** Seeing the powerful Assyrian army coming now into Judah, what might be the emotion among the people of Judah?

The prophet Isaiah was a contemporary spokesperson for God during King Hezekiah’s day. Listen to **Is. 31:1** (Read) (*rely* is “sa-an).

→God is a jealous God when we don’t primarily look or lean upon Him.

Remember how King Asa “relied” (sa-an) on the King of Syria and not the Lord, and how it displeased the Lord. And then later relied only on the physicians. →**Grace Hamrick** said to me that she believes that if Asa would have confessed and repented, God would have forgiven.

As I said, Assyria was attacking and defeating many of the “walled” cities of Judah. And King Sennacherib wanted the capital of Judah, and King Hezekiah, to fully defeat Judah.

Sennacherib sends **two messages**, by his supreme commander:

1. The first message was primarily to Hezekiah. It was a **bribe of horses**; It was a warning to not depend on Egypt. Then Sennacherib said he was directed by the Lord to march and defeat Jerusalem (2 Kings 18:19-25). But Hezekiah did not respond! Then the Assyrian messengers (2 Kings 27-35) continued with a message in Hebrew to the people:

- Make peace with me—Choose life and not death
- In this message he said: “do not listen to Hezekiah, for he is misleading you”
- No other gods of the other nations could stand up against Assyria!

King Hezekiah sought the Lord in the Temple (2 Kings 19:1) and then called upon Isaiah.

Isaiah responded **(Read 2 Kings 19:6-7)**. Note: v7

2. The second message from King Sennacherib to Hezekiah was after he heard that the King of Ethiopia was heading his way. It appears more aggressive: **Read 2 Kings 19:10**

- **“Do not let the god you depend on deceive you.”**
- Those were fighting words for someone like Hezekiah who was so closely connected with God.

Hezekiah turns to God in prayer after this 2nd message from Sennacherib. →One’s prayer life is one of the clearest indicators of how much we are seeking or dependent upon God!

This prayer of Hezekiah some say may be one of the most special and powerful recorded prayers in the Scriptures: **2 Kings 19:14-19.**

Quest. What are some things in this prayer that may get the scholars, like Dr. Bryan Byer, so excited?

Isaiah told Hezekiah that the Lord heard his prayer, and that God had a message for King Sennacherib (2 Kings 19:21-34)

- The Daughter of Jerusalem tosses her head as you flee (v.21)
- Who is it you have insulted and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride? Against the Holy One of Israel! (v.22)
- But I know where you stay and when you come and go and how you rage against me. Because you rage against me and your insolence has reached my ears, I will put a hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will make you return by the way you came. (vs. 27-28)

Read 2 Kings 19: 32-34

That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death 185K Assyrian soldiers
So, when the rest woke up, they saw all the dead bodies and Sennacherib broke camp and returned to Assyria. v. 35

2 Kings 19:37. When the Assyrian and Sennacherib returned to Assyria, Sennacherib’s sons killed their dad with the sword while he was worshipping his false deity in Nineveh. This was prophesied back in 19:7

Play You-Tube—Sennacherib’s Prism

This discovery in 1830 helps prove, from a secular viewpoint, the authenticity and accuracy of the Bible.

<https://youtu.be/-35ZAWAas04?si=NHcpNRx2whCUR4KR>