

1  **Invasion!**

Part 4: The Path to Victory

2  **The Reign of Hezekiah**

- While the early half of Hezekiah's reign was marked by his seeking God and instituting many religious reforms, Hezekiah eventually became lifted up in pride.
- When this happened, he was at his most vulnerable, and the Assyrians invaded.
- It was, however, this invasion that would show Hezekiah his need for God and set him back on the right path.

3  **The Enemy's Tactics**

- *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* (Eph 6:12)
- As Christians we are engaged in spiritual warfare.
- A soldier would be foolish if they went into battle without making any preparation to study their opponent.

4  **The Enemy's Tactics**

- *Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.* (2Co 2:10-11)
- One of the purposes for the Old Testament is to provide illustrations of or shed light upon New Testament truths.
- In the tactics that the Assyrians use, we can see some of the most deadly strategies of our own enemy.

5  **Preparing to Meet the Enemy**


- But if we can learn from the tactics that the Assyrians use against Judah, we can also learn how to correctly respond to those based on how Hezekiah deals with the Assyrian threat.
- Although Hezekiah has initiated these hostilities by rebelling against Assyria and making an alliance with Egypt that God condemns, the way he deals with this crisis is both humble and effective.

6  **Winning**

- 1) Take godly counsel
- 2) Stop up the wells
 - *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.* (Rom 13:14)
- 3) Dig for water
 - *...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...* (Eph 6:17)

7  **Winning**

- 4) Build up walls
- 5) Reinforce strongholds
 - *So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.* (2Ti 2:22)

8  **6) Arm your soldiers**

- He set to work resolutely and built up all the wall that was broken down and raised towers upon it, and outside it he built another wall, and he strengthened the Millo in the city of

David. He also made weapons and shields in abundance. (2Ch 32:5)

9 **6) Arm your soldiers**

- Spiritual warfare was never intended to be an individualistic proposition.
- You do not send an individual to face an army – you send your own army.
- We need to be going into battle with other soldiers – other men and women who are ready to do battle with the enemy.

10 **6) Arm your soldiers**

- But we must make sure that we as believers are constantly preparing one another for the fight, supporting one another during the fight, and healing one another when the fight is over.
- *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.* (Heb 10:24-25)

11 **7) Lead courageously**

- *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are 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."* And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah. (2Ch 32:7-8)

12 **8) Pray helplessly**

- *Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven.* (2Ch 32:20)
- With the Assyrian army surrounding his city, Hezekiah realized that all of his preparation would be useless, and that they would be defeated unless God worked a miracle.

13 **8) Pray helplessly**

- *Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD and spread it before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said: "O LORD, the God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. Incline your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God.* (2Ki 19:14-19)

14 **8) Pray helplessly**

- *Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed. So now, O LORD our God, save us, please, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O LORD, are God alone.*" (2Ki 19:14-19)

15 **8) Pray helplessly**

- The aspects of Hezekiah's prayer:
 - An acknowledgment of God's power
 - An understanding of God's nature
 - A concern for God's glory
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16 **8) Pray helplessly**

- As important as it is to make preparation and go into battle appropriately armed, it is even more important to also realize that all of your preparations alone are not enough.

- You must go humbly before God and admit that you are not enough, and that the key to your deliverance or victory does not lie in your flesh.

17  **The supernatural victory**

- *And the LORD sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he came into the house of his god, some of his own sons struck him down there with the sword. So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all his enemies, and he provided for them on every side. (2Ch 32:21-22)*

18  **The supernatural victory**

- *And that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. (2Ki 19:35)*

19  **The supernatural victory**

- Secular scholars have speculated that this may in fact have been an outbreak of the Plague or of some other disease.
- Regardless of the method God used, this act was nothing less than a miraculous and divine intervention on the part of God for his people.

20  **The final analysis**

- In the final analysis of Hezekiah's life:
 - He was a godly king who did many great things for God
 - He became lifted up in pride, but it was his ability to humble himself that ultimately saved Jerusalem:
 - *But Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah. (2Ch 32:26)*

21  **The final analysis**

- In many ways, Hezekiah is a very “human,” very identifiable character.
- Three years after the events of the Assyrian invasion, a son will be born to Hezekiah named Manasseh.
- Manasseh will, in contrast to his father, be the most wicked king that Judah has ever had – and he will be the subject of our next lesson.