HEZEKIAH – THE INTERCESSOR
Part IV
2 Kings 19:1-19

MAIN THOUGHT Good King Hezekiah (729-686 BC), the best king Judah ever had, was a REFORMER, NEGOTIATOR, INTERCESSOR, VICTOR, SUFFERER, SINGER, and BOASTER in his exceptional life.

HUMILIATION (1-13; Isa. 37:1-13).

• BE CONTRITE (1): Hezekiah, like his men (18:37), tore his robes – making sure his heart was right before God (Psa. 66:18; Isa. 1:15).

• ASK GODLY PEOPLE TO PRAY (2-4): He asked his spiritual leader (prophet, pastor, chaplain) to pray for him (Jam. 5:16).
• His emphasis was their extreme danger (2) and God’s reputation for His name, the “living God” (1 Sam. 17:36; 1 Tim. 4:10), had been ridiculed (Matt. 6:9).

• BE ENCOURAGED (5-7): (1) “Do not be afraid” (69x); (2) “Listen” (17x in Proverbs [1:5, 8]) – Sennacherib will become afraid (9), return home, and be slain by his eldest son 20 years later (681 BC).

• EXPECT TO BE TESTED (8-13): When Sennacherib hears of Egypt coming to help Judah, he repeats his ultimatum to surrender before Egypt arrived.

PETITION (14-19; 2 Chron. 32:20; Isa. 37:14-20).

“When the outlook is bleak, try the uplook.”

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• Lay your problem out before God (1 Pet. 5:7; Phil. 4:6).
• Your foe may claim to be a CHERIB (Senna (SIN=moon god) cherib (CHERUBIM=hybrid winged creatures; angels; chariots), but the LORD is enthroned between the CHERUBIM in the Holy of Holies and is alone (Psa. 62:2) in his rule (Psa. 99:1).
• We are invited to enter that throne room and pray to God (Heb. 4:16; 10:19).
• First comes ADORATION, then SUPPLICATION: He asked God to hear and see that his name, the living God, has been insulted.
  – Hezekiah asked God to defeat the Assyrians not because of Judah, but because of His own REPUTATION (Matt. 6:9).
  – God is a JEALOUS God (Ex. 20:2; Ex. 34:14; Deut. 32:21; Zech. 1:14).
  – He saved them for His name’s sake (Psa. 106:8).
  – Hezekiah knew that God was the one and only true God and that all the rest were really no gods at all (Acts 19:26).
    – It is an insult to God to speak about Him in the same sentence as you would speak about other gods – idols (2 Chron. 32:19).
• DELIVER US (Psa. 34:7, 17, 19; 79:9; Matt. 6:13; 2 Cor. 1:10) for you alone are God.