



Empowering People to Change the World

Ominous Times & the Power of Prayer Part 2

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I am growing to love Jesus with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength

I am growing to love people the way Jesus loves them

I am building up my faith with God's Holy Word

I am coming alive in the power of the Holy Spirit

With Jesus, all things are possible

Ominous Times and the Power of Prayer, Part 2

2 Kings 18-19

18:1-3

Hezekiah is only 25 years old, but he is righteous!

- He is the 13th successor of the throne from David as King of Judah.
- The Kingdoms of Israel have been divided up between Israel and Judah and the Nation of Israel has already been taken into captivity.
 - Hoshea had been the last king and he, like eighteen other kings, all did evil and now the nation has been overrun.
 - The northern Kingdom of Israel is about to go under Assyrian rule.
- He is the son of Ahaz, who had ruled Judah for 16 years and he did not follow the Lord.
- It would appear that Ahaz had even inaugurated child sacrifices. (16:3)
- He attempted to bribe the Assyrian king by giving away the Temple treasuries. He used a foreign altar to sacrifice on.
- He was a colossal failure as a leader.

- You have to wonder just how the sovereignty of God works in a child's life, but Hezekiah is different from his father.

The Power of a Praying Mother.

Oh, for the power, love and discipleship of his mother!

- Her name means "my father is Yah."
 - She was the daughter of Zechariah, who it says, had an understanding, of the visions of God.
 - She must have protected and taught her son.
- Hezekiah is considered one of the great kings, one of the righteous kings in both 2 Chronicles and 2 Kings. He is even considered in the lineage of Jesus.

Vs. 4-8

Hezekiah brought great reforms and spiritual renewal to Israel.

- He purged Israel of idolatry and established Temple sacrifices.
- Even though all around him, Assyria had taken over, Hezekiah was blessed by God and prospered.
- He even had the courage to take on the mighty power of Assyria.

Vs. 9-37

Assyria is on the move and taking all of the cities in Israel and Judah.

- Sennacherib, King of Assyria, imposes a heavy tribute on Hezekiah, which he pays.
- But Sennacherib sends the Rabshakeh, a title for his general or chief of staff, to bribe and mock Hezekiah.
 - Intimidation "great army."
 - Mocking.

- Bribery.
 - Media.
 - Incite rebellion.
- But the people stayed true to Hezekiah.

Chapter 19

Vs. 1-4

- A powerful illustration of what we should do when we are under barrage from the enemy.

Hezekiah doesn't respond to the attacks, but humbles himself before God. His fellow leaders follow his example.

- He calls out for Isaiah's wisdom.
- He is calling everyone to prayer!
- Hezekiah could give in:
 - He could pay the tribute.
 - He could surrender.
 - He could save his life and everyone else's by compromise.

Isaiah speaks.

Vs. 5-7

Isaiah speaks one of the most powerful prophecies in the OT.

- He says two amazing things:
 1. Don't be afraid.
 2. God's going to send a spirit upon him and he will leave.
- And that's what happens!

But the threat is far from over.

The Mocking Continues!

- This is the way of Satan!
- He is called the “Accuser of the Brethren” because that’s all he knows to do.

Now, watch what Hezekiah does! This is my point today.

Vs. 14-15

Hezekiah doesn’t consult with anyone, but takes everything to the Lord!

Three Things That Characterize Powerful Prayer During Ominous Times:

1. Hezekiah Acknowledges the Greatness and Power of God!

- a. When I read this, I thought about Hezekiah’s mother, Abi and I wondered if he had watched his praying mother do exactly the same thing, when his father did so many boneheaded things.
- b. Hezekiah reads the letter to God! Wow! He is totally honest before the Lord.

Vs. 16-18

2. Hezekiah is Completely Honest Before God!

Vs. 19

3. Hezekiah Asks God to Intervene for His Glory!

Now, look what happens...

Vs. 20

Because he prayed!! God heard!! Then he prophesied the victory.

Vs. 21-31

The Zeal of the Lord Will Come in Response to Prayer!

Vs. 32-37

God destroys the Assyrians!