

2 CHRONICLES 32

REVIEW — Tonight we come to 2 Chronicles 32. Up to this point Hezekiah has been driven by a passion to see God worshipped. He's been **seeking first** the interests of God above his own. He **re-established** worship in the house of the Lord. He **repaired** the house of the Lord and **restored the vessels** used in the worship of the Lord. He **re-consecrated** the priests and Levites for service and worship in the house of the Lord. He **restored** the observance of Passover. The people **responded** to blood of the lamb by tearing down the idols they used to worship. The revival was marked by a reverence for the Word of God — Hezekiah worshipped the Lord by bowing to — submitting to — the will of God revealed in the Word of God. Hezekiah and the people became extravagant giving for the work of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 31 ends by saying that Hezekiah *did what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God.* ²¹*And every work that he undertook in the service of the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God, he did with all his heart, and prospered.*

THAT BROUGHT US TO THE OPENING WORDS OF **2 Chronicles 32**

¹After 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.

That is incredibly counter-intuitive. After those things — after acts of faithfulness — we expect smooth sailing. That thinking exists because there is some part of us that doesn't really understand grace. There is some part of us that still thinks we relate to God on the basis of merit.

QUOTE: Paul Tripp — *When you think you're righteous, you think you've earned what you haven't earned and deserve what you don't deserve..... If you think you're righteous, you'll expect*

things from God you shouldn't expect and demand things from people you shouldn't demand.

The last bit of that quote is so powerful — but let's stick with the front end of it. The proof that there is a deeply rooted sense of self-righteousness in us is seen in the fact that we expect a life without conflict or hardship or adversity when we are living right before the Lord. We think we've earned an exemption from spiritual warfare.

The opening verse of **Chapter 32** is not about what Hezekiah “deserved.” It's about the very real opposition in this world to the worship of God and the redeeming plans and purposes of God in our lives in the face of that opposition.

WE CLOSED WITH THIS — Whenever there is REVIVAL; whenever men and women RESPOND to God's grace — there will be a REACTION from hell.

QUOTE — *Brethren, if we will do God's work in God's way, at God's time, with God's power, we shall have God's blessing and the devil's curses. When God opens the windows of heaven to bless us, the devil will open the doors of hell to blast us.*

That is true on the personal level! Remember — personal revival has as its end worship of God and the tearing down of idols. Satan opposes the worship of God and promotes idolatry.

QUOTE: W. T. Matson — *Against me earth and hell combine; But on my side is Power Divine; Jesus is all, and He is mine.*

It's true on the corporate level — Any time a local church is experiencing revival Satan doesn't sit back and say, “How wonderful. A revival in Roseville and Rocklin and Granite Bay and Citrus Heights and Auburn and Loomis and Folsom and El Dorado Hills. I guess I should give up the battle in this region.” No — he and his minions plan and strategize. He has *wiles* and *devices*. The greater the work (individually or corporately) the greater the attack.

If you're being assaulted — attacked and assailed — be encouraged! It means you are on the verge of revival or in revival. The same is true for those on the verge of becoming a believer. The devil will not let you go without kicking or screaming.

CHAPTER 32

¹After 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.

They Assyrians were the first to develop battering rams and ramps to go over the walls of a city. The Assyrians were really big on terrifying and intimidating the cities they attacked. When they conquered cities they would take the heads of their captured enemies and place them on poles around the city. The inhabitants of the city would see the heads of their friends on poles. Before they did this, they would filet the victim. They would skin them alive for as long as 5 hours.

REMEMBER — It was on the heels of revival that this king comes into Judah with his brutal and powerful army

Sennacherib has come to power. He's had victory over the northern kingdom (Israel) and Syria and Babylon. He then turned his forces and comes into the area of Judah. He began to take the fortified cities leaving Jerusalem for last. Assyrian historical records have been unearthed telling us that Sennacherib took 46 fortified cities in Judah, carrying away hundreds of thousands of captives. In 710 BC Sennacherib was about to invade Jerusalem. The Assyrian's annals report that he had Hezekiah caught "like a bird in a cage."¹ Because he had so successfully overrun Judah, and because of the siege they had laid against Jerusalem — Sennacherib was certain that it was only a matter of time before Jerusalem would fall and Hezekiah would be defeated.

¹ Dockery, D. S., Butler, T. C., Church, C. L., Scott, L. L., Ellis Smith, M. A., White, J. E., & Holman Bible Publishers (Nashville, T. (1992). *Holman Bible Handbook* (265). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

The Assyrian strategy was to lay siege to any fortified cities. They set the forces around the city to cut off all supplies of food and water. They would be content to camp around Jerusalem for years and wait until starvation and plague killed the population within the walls. People would die without a water supply. Then they would build a ramp, batter down the gates and take the city.

²And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem, ³he planned with his officers and his mighty men to stop the water of the springs that were outside the city; and they helped him. ⁴A great many people were gathered, and they stopped all the springs and the brook that flowed through the land, saying, “Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?” ⁵He 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 (the Milo was what they called the terraces on one side of the city of David – which was at the southern end of Zion and the Temple Mount). He also made weapons and shields in abundance.

Hezekiah set out to beat the Assyrians at their own game. He strengthened himself, built up all the wall that was broken down and raised up towers and another wall without—put a second wall outside and repaired milo the terraces on the one side in the city of David. He prepared for war.

Most importantly Hezekiah understood the “siege strategy” of the Assyrians and he set out to secure the water supply for the city. First they covered the water sources (v.4). Then he commissioned men to build a conduit from the Spring Gihon (which was located outside of the walls in the City of David) all the way inside the walls of Jerusalem so that water could be gathered inside the walls. ([2Chr 32:2-8](#); [2Chr 32:30](#); [Isa 22:9-11](#); [2Ki 20:20](#))



They did this with hammers and chisels. They didn't blast; they didn't have jackhammers. Try to imagine two teams — one starting at the pool of Siloam, the other starting at the Spring Gihon — both digging towards each other through solid rock.

That's exactly what happened some 710 years BC! Had they cut through the rock in a straight line it would have been a distance of 366 yards (3 ½ football fields). But because they had to cut in a zig-zag pattern, the conduit is actually 583 yards. (Almost 6 football fields — 591.6 yards). The tunnel is at places only about two feet wide, but its average height is about six feet. The engineers began their cutting from both ends and met in the middle — a truly amazing engineering feat. The Pool of Siloam was the place where the water from outside of the city was collected. It was an open air basin twenty by thirty feet. That is how the pool got its name. It was called Siloam — or

SENT — because the water in it had been SENT through the conduit into the city.

Hezekiah's tunnel was discovered accidentally in 1838 and was explored by the American traveler, Edward Robinson, and his missionary friend, Eli Smith. The tunnel was explored in 1867, but it was not until 1880 that an important Hebrew inscription was discovered near the entrance to the reservoir. It gave a graphic description of how the tunnel was built.² This inscription is in the British Museum.



⁶And he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying, ⁷“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. ⁸With 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.

² *Nelson's new illustrated Bible dictionary*. 1995 (R. F. Youngblood, F. F. Bruce, R. K. Harrison & Thomas Nelson Publishers, Ed.). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc.

FIRST — Faith and action are not mutually exclusive. It is not always an either/or matter — either faith or action. It is most often a matter of both/and — both faith and action. We see here that Hezekiah did all that he could. He dug this tunnel — THAT was extraordinary action! He fortified the city — extraordinary action. He made weapons — extraordinary action. He appointed captains and set them in their station — extraordinary action. BUT don't miss this: Hezekiah knew that ultimately success was dependent upon the Lord.

HERE'S THE POINT — There are those times when the Lord says, "Stand still — keep your hands off this situation." But as a rule you're to do your best and commit the rest. Many believers fail at this point. They do their best but fail to commit the outcome to the Lord, and as a result fail — or they say, "I'm trusting the Lord," and do nothing at all (I'm trusting the Lord to give me a job — but they do nothing to find one). We **MUST** do our best — as Hezekiah did. But we **MUST** also realize that the secret of success is to commit the rest and trust the Lord

7....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.

FIRST — We must always have a Biblical perspective of any circumstance that seems impossible to us. We need to measure our circumstance against God. By the way — this has been a **REPEATED** theme through different moments of history involving different individuals in very different circumstances.

Romans 8:31 ³¹*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

For starters — God is **NOT** against us. God **IS** for us. Paul sets forth the proof that He **IS** for us.

Romans 8:32 *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?*

Then in the face of our circumstances we need to remember who it is that is for us — GOD is the one who is for us!

***Psalm 27:1** The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

There is no one or no thing in this world that can offer us the help and security we need in facing life in a fallen world. Our security is can never be found horizontally. It is impossible for anything to be greater than Him or beyond His control.

SECOND — As hundreds of thousands of Assyrians marched against them Hezekiah essentially quotes the prophet Elijah.

***2 Kings 6:15-18** When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” ¹⁶He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” ¹⁷Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

This would soon prove to be true — *v.21 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.*

Metro — We are not alone in the walk and warfare of the Christian life. The Bible says that God dispatches POWERFUL spiritual beings called angels to care for us as we seek to live for Jesus and live on mission for Him in this fallen world.

***Hebrews 1:6-7; 14** And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” (so these*

angels are worshippers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus) ⁷Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” (quoting Psalm 104:4)... ¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Do NOT think of angels in the way that you see them in paintings. They are NOT limp-wristed, effeminate, chubby wimps, lounging on clouds, playing dinky little harps! They are warriors standing by you, provided by the Lord who redeemed you.

We talk about spiritual warfare because the Bible talks about it! It's real.

***Ephesians 6:12** 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.*

The angels that are with us (and they are here with us right now) are GREATER in power and number than our enemy.

⁸With 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.

HUGE!! God has not only commissioned these angelic beings to be our escorts on the way to heaven — God Himself is WITH US! This is so essential to who He IS and to the relationship He desires to have with us that He took that name when He came into human flesh. In fact — the Lord said this by way of the prophet Isaiah, who was ministering during the reign of Hezekiah,

***Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Matthew 1:22-23 *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”*

If you are a child of God you are NEVER alone. The moment you believed with your heart on the Lord Jesus Emmanuel moved in and He is NEVER leaving.

Life is always going to have its Sennacheribs and its Assyrian armies bearing down on us. Yes, there is the initial **reaction** when they arrive on our doorstep. But what is crucial is the way we respond. Some of us always live in the react mode and never get to the respond mode. We can react on the basis of what we see and feel; on the basis of how our human resources match up to the very imminent and very visible, very intimidating, very troubling, present form of Sennacherib — or we can respond in light of what the Bible says about God. THAT is worship. God is exalted when we live as though He really **is** who He says He is — The omnipotent God who is in absolute control of everything; and is so for us that He gave His Son as the sacrifice for our sins so that we can be reconciled to Him. God is exalted when we live as though He really is **where** He says He is — with us. How are you responding to the Sennacherib in your home; your marriage; your workplace; your health; your school; your relationships?

NOTE THE OUTCOME — *⁸With 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.*

I like how the KJV reads the end of verse 8

And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

The Bible tells us that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

LEADERS TAKE NOTE — and by leaders I mean husbands and perspective husbands; dads and moms; those who lead in ministry and perspective leaders in ministry; those who would lead their peers (not just “look at me I’m your leader” kind of leader — but one who leads by living a Gospel centered life)

God had placed Hezekiah as the man who would rule over the southern kingdom. He exercised his leadership by essentially telling them what God had said in His Word.

CHECK THIS OUT — The people that were afraid and weak had been built up by the encouraging words of this godly leader — they were *RESTING* and *LEANING UPON* them. IMMEDIATELY comes the enemy who tries to undermine their faith in what they had heard about God.

⁹After this, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, who was besieging Lachish with all his forces, sent his servants to Jerusalem to Hezekiah king of Judah and to all the people of Judah who were in Jerusalem, saying, ¹⁰“Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria, ‘On what are you trusting, that you endure the siege in Jerusalem? ¹¹Is not Hezekiah misleading you, that he may give you over to die by famine and by thirst, when he tells you, “The Lord our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria”?’ ¹²Has not this same Hezekiah taken away his high places and his altars and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, “Before one altar you shall worship, and on it you shall burn your sacrifices”?’ ¹³Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of other lands? Were the gods of the nations of those lands at all able to deliver their lands out of my hand? ¹⁴Who among all the gods of those nations that my fathers devoted to destruction was able to deliver his people from my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you from my hand? ¹⁵Now, therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or mislead you in this fashion, and do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my hand or from the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you out of my hand!”’ ¹⁶And his servants said still more against the Lord

God and against his servant Hezekiah. ¹⁷And he wrote letters to cast contempt on the Lord, the God of Israel and to speak against him, saying, “Like the gods of the nations of the lands who have not delivered their people from my hands, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver his people from my hand.” ¹⁸And they shouted it with a loud voice in the language of Judah to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to frighten and terrify them, in order that they might take the city. ¹⁹And they spoke of the God of Jerusalem as they spoke of the gods of the peoples of the earth, which are the work of men’s hands.

NOTICE — This is a frontal assault on God. The whole argument is against the True and Living God Nehemiah has pointed the people to.

NOTICE — *¹⁸And they shouted it with a loud voice in the language of Judah — to frighten and terrify — in order that they might take the city.* The objective is to frighten and terrify. The goal is to take the city. The means to accomplish the goal was to shout in the language of the people.

WHY is this city so important? Because it is the city where the Creator God has placed His name. The focal point of that city is the worship of the Creator. This city is at the heart of His redemptive plans and purposes. This city is where the King of kings will day sit upon the throne of David and rule over the earth for 1,000 years.

HERE’S THE PICTURE — Our adversary the devil has the same goal: he wants to take the city of your heart — because it is there that the creator, redeemer God is worshipped — where His redemptive plans and purposes are lived out to His glory. He wants to take the city of your marriage because it is there that the creator, redeemer God is worshipped — where His redemptive plans and purposes are lived out to His glory. He wants to take the city of your home because it is there that the creator, redeemer God is worshipped — where His redemptive plans and purposes are lived out to His glory. He wants to take the city of your workplace or school because it is there that the creator, redeemer God is worshipped — where His redemptive plans and purposes are lived out to His glory. He wants to take the

city of your church because it is there that the creator, redeemer God is worshipped — where His redemptive plans and purposes are lived out to His glory. He wants to take the geographical city you live in because it is there that the creator, redeemer God desires to be worshipped — where He desires to work out His redemptive plans and purposes in countless lives — to His glory.

NOTICE — He does it by tackling one objective — frighten and terrify. He loves to terrify men and women concerning God (as he did way back in Genesis 3). He essentially tried to terrify Eve concerning God's gracious and loving intentions for her — terrify her at the prospect of God being anything other than giving and gracious — get her to look to something God created as the thing that would give her identity and meaning and satisfaction.

NOTICE — The objective was to undermine the rest that they had — rest that came from faith in the God of the Bible. He did so by shouting his lies in their own language.

Nothing has changed. He did that in the Garden of Eden — Hath God said? You will not surely die? Did God really speak — and if He did; did He really mean what He said? Our adversary the devil still seeks to undermine the rest and confidence that comes from the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God. He does it by shouting into our hearts in minds that God's Word isn't true — is not to be trusted; and that the God of the Word is not to be trusted; is not what the Bible says about Him.

DON'T MISS THIS — He does this by speaking our language. This is radical on a number of levels! He speaks the language of modern media! Look around — Listen. How much of the Media spectrum is the god of this world shouting things that de-god God? What a challenge for us to the language of our culture — use media to proclaim the Word of God that tells the truth about who God is and how much He loves man and how man might know Him.

NOTICE — The enemy seeks to undermine faith in the True and Living God by positing (putting forward as the basis for his argument)

that the true and living God is no different than any other idol. God is infinitely and utterly different than any other god — any other idol. God is HOLY. That means that He is OTHER THAN everything created. The great scheme of the devil is to get us to trust in, rely upon, live for and look to as functional savior, things created, which can NEVER save! That's THE lie that Paul writes about in [Romans 1](#) where he says that man has *exchanged THE truth for THE lie and worshipped creation rather than the creator who is blessed for ever!* There's a reason all of those other gods failed to deliver those who worshipped them — it's because they can't save!

CLOSE WITH THIS —

Some of the people of Jerusalem stood on the wall to hear what was up. And the enemy was more than glad to shut out in words they could hear and understand.

THIS IS HUGE — Think back to the first attack on God and God's Word. Eve didn't invite the serpent — but there he was. And he began to attack the character of God, and the truth of God. What did Eve do? We need to lay hold of this — She responded! IN the language of 2 Chronicles 32 she climbed on the wall in response to the shouts. What Eve should have done is simply walk away. She could have and should have said — *I do not want to participate in the conversation that dishonors God.* All she needed to do was to literally turn her back on Satan — turn her face toward God — and walk away. How many ladies (and men) **right now** are sucked into conversations — conflict — gossip — divisiveness — and error **BECAUSE** you lack the courage to simply not respond? But She engaged in the conversation. She hears him out. She ended up being deceived and confused because she engaged the serpent. Twice in the New Testament we are told that she was deceived by his crafty arguments ([2 Corinthians 11:3](#); [1 Timothy 2:14](#)). She wasn't confused when she was talking to God. She became confused when she allowed conflicting voices to come into our life.

PERSONAL APPLICATION — To whom are you listening? Make no mistake — our adversary the devil is shouting in a language we can

understand. What books and websites are informing you? What articles are motivating you? What radio, TV or movies are informing you? What friends are whispering in your ear? Are you involved in conversations right now that you should not be involved in?