



Fall Study Discussion Guide #2

Sermon Title: Satanic Strategies

Biblical Reference: 2 Kings 18:13-37

Date Preached: Sunday, October 30th, 2022, @ 11am

Fall Study Date: Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022

Sermon Summary

This week we learned about another defining incident in the life of Hezekiah the king of Judah. Four years into Hezekiah's reign the Assyrians conquered Israel (the ten northern tribes of the split kingdom). Ten years later, the Assyrian army came against the outlying cities of Judah and conquered them. Hezekiah, acting out of fear, sent messengers to Sennacherib, and offered to subject Judah to a tax. This was an effort to avoid a war that could lead to the capture of Judah and the loss of everything. While this decision offered immediate relief, it proved disastrous in the long run. It emboldened and strengthened the Assyrians and it bankrupted Judah. Three years later, they returned to overthrow Judah and enslave the Jews.

The Old Testament has many stories of people who are representative of more significant players in the spiritual realm. In this historical event we can see Sennacherib is a picture of the devil. The Lord often uses enemy kings, that are out to destroy the people of God, as a picture of Satan (See Ezekiel 28). As we pay attention to the methods the Assyrians used; we can gain insight into how the devil attempts to destroy us as we try to follow Hezekiah's example of living for God in a fallen world. When we see truth, we can see through Satan's methods, and they lose their power.

Quick Review

Reviewing the text from this week's sermon, were there any insights the Lord showed you or anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Were you able to apply any of the principles you learned from our study of the text this week?

My Testimony

Ask a volunteer to read:

2Ki 18:13 Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them.

The first thing we find in the text is that this attack came after Hezekiah was serving the Lord faithfully for fourteen years.

Can you give us an example from your life of spiritual attacks that have come later in your Christian journey? How do these attacks differ from your earlier experiences? Are you surprised by the relentlessness of the devil?

Digging Deeper

1. Satan Taxes You

Ask a volunteer to read:

2Ki 18:13 Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them.

2Ki 18:14 And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended; return from me: that which thou puttest on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

2Ki 18:15 And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house.

2Ki 18:16 At that time did Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

In this passage we see Hezekiah's response to the loss of Judah's outlying cities. He attempted to placate the enemy by confessing to wrongdoing and offering them a bribe. Both actions emboldened the enemy.

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you in this text?
- Why am I (or other people) willing to admit to being wrong when I am not wrong?
Follow up: What long term consequences have you observed because of this behavior?
- Hezekiah subjected himself to a tax that took away all the treasures the Lord had given them. In what way has the enemy taxed you?
- Why are we willing to live under this burden?

In verses 15-16 we see the Lord's treasures were drained and the gold was removed. We would imagine this not only depressed Hezekiah, but the rest of the attendees. When we allow the enemy to tax us it hurts us and the people we love.

- In what ways are the people we worship with hurt when we live in defeat?

2. Satan Misrepresents You

Ask a volunteer to read:

2Ki 18:19 And Rabshakeh said unto them, Speak ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, What confidence is this wherein thou trustest?

2Ki 18:20 Thou sayest, (but they are but vain words,) I have counsel and strength for the war. Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me?

2Ki 18:21 Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him.

2Ki 18:22 But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?

After three years Rabshakeh, the officer in charge of the Assyrian army, comes in response to Hezekiah's decision to stop paying the tax. He puts words in their mouth and assumes he knows their motives for the decision. Rabshakeh claims the good things they did were bad. We know from 2 Chronicles 32:8, that Hezekiah was not trusting in Egypt but in the Lord. The Lord also wanted him to destroy the high places.

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- Have you had something similar happen to you in your professional life?
- What are some examples of how Christians experience this from the popular culture?
- What advice would you give to a person that is having a tough time with this?

3. Satan Influences You to Give Up without a Fight

Ask a volunteer to read:

2Ki 18:31 Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me, and then eat ye every man of

his own vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his cistern:

2Ki 18:32 Until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of oil olive and of honey, that ye may live, and not die: and hearken not unto Hezekiah, when he persuadeth you, saying, The LORD will deliver us.

2Ki 18:35 Who are they among all the gods of the countries, that have delivered their country out of mine hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of mine hand?

Discussion Questions:

The above part of our text tells us how Rabshakeh tried to get them to give up without a fight and go into slavery.

- What stands out to you in this text?
- In the above text, what were some of the strategies Rabshakeh used?
- What strategies does the devil use most in your life to influence you to give up?
- How have you been able to overcome a defeatist attitude in your Christian life?

4. Satan Misrepresents God to You

Ask a volunteer to read:

2Ki 18:25 Am I now come up without the LORD against this place to destroy it? The LORD said to me, Go up against this land, and destroy it.

Rabshakeh lies to them. He tries to get them to believe God was against them and God was the cause of their distress. God did not send him. We know this when we read the next chapter. God was the one that delivered them and helped them. Often in our distress, we believe God is the cause when it is the enemy.

- What stands out to you in this text?
- Can you tell us about a time when you believed God was against you?
- How was your relationship with God affected by believing God was against you? How did God bring you through this?

- How have you seen people damaged by believing God was the one that was destroying them?

Taking It Home

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they can do because of discovering the truths and principles in the text:

1. What truth or principle in this text was most impactful for you?
2. How did this truth or principal challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
3. How will you put into practice what you have learned today?