

# Lessons in Renewal

## Hezekiah Challenged

Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

### I.—Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 29-32)

2 Chronicles 29:1-2 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah. <sup>2</sup> He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done.

- A. "he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord"
- B. God is aware

2 Chronicles 29:3-11 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> **In the first month of the first year of his reign**, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them.

- C. Temple repaired
- D. Priests consecrated
- E. Acknowledged past & choose a new future
- F. Sacred Gathering
- G. Invitations to Change . . . to honor God
- H. The People Respond . . . large crowd gathers
- I. Personal enthusiasm for God
- J. Generosity

### II. Unexpected Challenge

2 Chronicles 32:1-5 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, thinking to conquer them for himself. <sup>2</sup> When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he intended to make war on Jerusalem, <sup>3</sup> he consulted with his officials and military staff about blocking off the water from the springs outside the city, and they helped him. <sup>4</sup> A large force of men assembled, and they blocked all the springs and the stream that flowed through the land. "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find plenty of water?" they said. <sup>5</sup> Then he worked hard repairing all the broken sections of the wall and building towers on it. He built another wall outside that one and reinforced the supporting terraces of the City of David. He also made large numbers of weapons and shields.

#### A. Challenge to Faith

2 Chronicles 32:10-13 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> "This is what Sennacherib king of Assyria says: On what are you basing your confidence, that you remain in Jerusalem under siege? <sup>11</sup> When Hezekiah says, 'The LORD our God will save us from the hand of the king of Assyria,' **he is misleading you, to let you die of hunger and thirst.** <sup>12</sup> Did not Hezekiah himself remove this god's high places and altars, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, 'You must worship before one altar and burn sacrifices on it?' <sup>13</sup> "Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of the other lands? Were the gods of those nations ever able to deliver their land from my hand?"

## B. A Prophet Speaks

2 Kings 19:20-22 (NASB)

<sup>20</sup> Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah saying, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Because you have prayed to Me about Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard *you*.' <sup>21</sup> "This is the word that the LORD has spoken against him: 'She has despised you and mocked you, The virgin daughter of Zion; She has shaken *her* head behind you, The daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>22</sup> 'Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? And against whom have you raised *your* voice, And haughtily lifted up your eyes? **Against the Holy One of Israel!**

## C. God Responds

Isaiah 37:33-37 (NIV)

<sup>33</sup> "Therefore this is what the LORD says concerning the king of Assyria: "He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow here. He will not come before it with shield or build a siege ramp against it. <sup>34</sup> By the way that he came he will return; he will not enter this city," declares the LORD. <sup>35</sup> "I will defend this city and save it, for my sake and for the sake of David my servant!" <sup>36</sup> Then the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning--there were all the dead bodies! <sup>37</sup> So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.

1 John 4:4 (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

## III. The Rest of the Story

### A. Hezekiah's Illness

2 Kings 20:1-6 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover." <sup>2</sup> Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, <sup>3</sup> "Remember, O LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. <sup>4</sup> Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him:

<sup>5</sup> "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of my people, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.'"

### B. Pride & Presumption

2 Kings 20:14-18 (NIV)

<sup>14</sup> Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah and asked, "What did those men say, and where did they come from?" "From a distant land," Hezekiah replied. "They came from Babylon." <sup>15</sup> The prophet asked, "What did they see in your palace?" "They saw everything in my palace," Hezekiah said. "**There is nothing among my treasures that I did not show them.**" <sup>16</sup> Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD: <sup>17</sup> The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your fathers have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD. <sup>18</sup> And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood, that will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, deliver me from my adversaries. Open my ears to hear, my eyes to see and my heart to understand Your direction. I rejoice that You are a God who delivers. Your arm is not too short nor Your strength too small to work deliverance for Your people. I rejoice today in the watchfulness and strength of My God and My deliverer. May the Fear of God come upon those who oppose Your purposes for My life. In Jesus name, amen.