

DEALING WITH STUBBORN ENEMIES – 1

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE
II Kings 18:17-37

ADDITIONAL STUDY
Psalm 18:17-19
Isaiah 41:9-13

PRAYER

Cast down every negative voice that is speaking fear over your mind; counter their negative thoughts with the word of God, and declare that you are exempt from the terror they unleashed in others in Jesus name.

Then the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say now to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: "What confidence is this in which you trust? You speak of having plans and power for war; but they are mere words...." – II Kings 18:19-20

The account in today's passage is a typical case of having to contend with an opposition that seems larger than life. Such oppositions can come as health, financial, marital, emotional or even career challenges. In this case it was a physical army - the strong force of Assyria against Hezekiah and the Israelites.

In whatever way these oppositions present themselves, they have one goal in common: to make you fret at their size, turn cowardly and surrender to them. Here the enemy boasted of their conquest in other nations to make the Israelites feel they don't stand a chance if they went to war with them. That is the same way life's oppositions will make you feel you don't stand a chance. If it is sickness, it will show you a list of people it has killed in the past. If it is a marital challenge, it will give you examples of once loving couples whose marriages ended in divorce, because they had some challenges.

Notice also how the Rabshakeh lied that God had given him orders for the destruction of Jerusalem at that time, but this is all banter and rodomontade (a bragging speech). The opposition will sometimes make you feel it has the 'permission' to afflict you, which is why it seems God's help is afar off. Again, the Rabshakeh tried to deceive the Israelites by telling them God lacked the power to deliver them; the same way the opposition sometimes tells you God cannot save you. But in spite of all these, Hezekiah did something that changed the game...

Find out what he did in the next edition.

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