



## LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

### “Kings & Queens: Rejecting the Enemy's Speech”

Dr. Rice Brooks – July 20, 2014

#### WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What were some encouraging, uplifting words spoken to you that helped you through a tough situation?
- Have you ever been in a life-threatening situation? How did you react? How were you spared?
- When you are in trouble, who do you call for help?

#### WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [bethelbrentwood.org/media](http://bethelbrentwood.org/media).

The Story of King Hezekiah & Sennacherib, King of Assyria

2 Kings 18:1-12

- Hezekiah was a good and godly king over the nation of Judah. He instituted a program of spiritual reform and honored the Lord. He also refused to pay tribute to Assyria or honor their gods. (Assyria was a powerful kingdom to the north that had conquered many nations and peoples, and had imposed tribute on Judah.)

2 Chronicles 32:1-8

- Sennacherib, King of Assyria, began to move south toward Judah with his army, crushing all who refused to unconditionally submit to his rule. Hezekiah began to mobilize the nation to take practical steps to defend themselves even though Judah was small in power compared to Assyria. Hezekiah trusted the Lord. He exhorted and encouraged the people in the Lord. He took both practical action and spiritual action.

Isaiah 36:1-22

- Sennacherib invaded Judah and captured many towns. Assyria was known for its cruel acts of war. They terrorized their enemies. When they came to Jerusalem, Sennacherib's spokesman delivered a speech to Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem, seeking to intimidate them and compel them to surrender.
- (Isaiah 36:4-20 NIV) *The field commander said to them, “Tell Hezekiah: “ ‘This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: On what are you basing this confidence of yours? You say you have counsel and might for war—but you speak only empty words. On whom are you depending, that you rebel against me? Look, I know you are depending on Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff, which pierces the hand of anyone who leans on it! Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who depend on him. But if you say to me, “We are depending on the Lord our God”—isn’t he the one whose high places and altars Hezekiah removed, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, “You must worship before this altar”? “ ‘Come now, make a bargain with my master, the king of Assyria: I will give you two*

*thousand horses—if you can put riders on them! How then can you repulse one officer of the least of my master’s officials, even though you are depending on Egypt for chariots and horsemen? Furthermore, have I come to attack and destroy this land without the Lord? The Lord himself told me to march against this country and destroy it.’” Then Eliakim, Shebna and Joah said to the field commander, “Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, since we understand it. Don’t speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people on the wall.” But the commander replied, “Was it only to your master and you that my master sent me to say these things, and not to the people sitting on the wall—who, like you, will have to eat their own excrement and drink their own urine?” Then the commander stood and called out in Hebrew, “Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you. He cannot deliver you! Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the Lord when he says, ‘The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.’” “Do not listen to Hezekiah. This is what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me and come out to me. Then each of you will eat fruit from your own vine and fig tree and drink water from your own cistern, until I come and take you to a land like your own—a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards. “Do not let Hezekiah mislead you when he says, ‘The Lord will deliver us.’ Have the gods of any nations ever delivered their lands from the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand? Who of all the gods of these countries have been able to save their lands from me? How then can the Lord deliver Jerusalem from my hand?”*

Isaiah 37:1-38

- Hezekiah desperately, yet in faith, called upon the Lord for deliverance, and exhorted others to do so as well. God responded and brought supernatural destruction upon the invading Assyrian army. Consequently, Sennacherib withdrew and returned to Assyria, where he was eventually assassinated by two of his own sons.

Hezekiah's Response

- Hezekiah had already taken the critical steps necessary to enable him and the people to respond well to this terrifying threat. He had already led the nation in repentance and spiritual cleansing, leading the people back to faith and obedience toward God.
- He had also taken practical steps to build up the defenses of Jerusalem.
- In the hour of crisis, he remained unshakable in his faith, exhorting and encouraging the people to trust God for deliverance, and he earnestly prayed to God, calling upon him for deliverance.
- In response, God sent an angel that destroyed Assyria's invading army, which resulted in Assyria's withdrawal from Judah.

Conclusion: The words we listen to determine our future. Like the people of Jerusalem we need to listen to the words of our great king, Jesus, and reject the temptation to listen to the words of our great enemy, Satan. God's Word, the Bible, is true and speaks with authority and power to our lives. We must pay close attention to what God speaks to us through the Scriptures.

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.**

- What kind of lies from our spiritual enemy do you battle?
- Are there any “idols” that you need to get rid of in order to prepare for victory?
- What are you going to do to build up your faith to be able to resist the lies of the enemy?

### **PRAYER (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- That God would guide us in the truth, exposing the lies by which we have been snared.
- That God would teach us how to read and study the Bible, and to apply its truths to our lives.
- That God would strengthen us to tear down the "idols" in our lives; that is, those things which either are evil or stand above God in importance and value in our lives.