



God is Still on His Throne

A Study of Trust

Sennacherib's account of the invasion of Judah, as given on the Taylor prism: "Because Hezekiah, king of Judah, would not submit to my yoke, I came up against him, and by force of arms and by the might of my power I took 46 of his strong fenced cities; and of the smaller towns which were scattered about, I took and plundered a countless number. From these places I took and carried off 200,156 persons, old and young, male and female, together with horses and mules, donkeys and camels, oxen and sheep, a countless multitude; and Hezekiah himself I shut up in Jerusalem, his capital city, like a bird in a cage, building towers round the city to hem him in, and raising banks of earth against the gates, so as to prevent escape... Then upon Hezekiah there fell the fear of the power of my arms, and he sent out to me the chiefs and the elders of Jerusalem with 30 talents of gold and 300 talents of silver, and diverse treasures, a rich and immense plunder.. All these things were brought to me at Nineveh, the seat of my government."

(Sennacherib's Prism 690 BC, Eastern Institute, Chicago, IL)

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- God's version of the same events... the rest of the story
 - 2Kings 18:13-14, 19:15-20; 2Chron. 32:10-15
 - Isa. 37:28-29; 2Kings 19:31-37; 2Chron. 32:20-21

God's Version Of The Same Events

2Kings 18:13-14 - "And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. 14 Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, 'I have done wrong; turn away from me; whatever you impose on me I will pay.' And the king of Assyria assessed Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold."

God's Version Of The Same Events

2Kings 19:14-20 - "And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. 15 Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: 'O LORD God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. 16 Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God. 17 Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, 18 and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands-wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them. 19 Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone.' 20 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard.'"

God's Version Of The Same Events

2Chron. 32:6-12 - "Then he set military captains over the people, gathered them together to him in the open square of the city gate, and gave them encouragement, saying, 7 Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him. 8 With 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 were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah. 9 After this Sennacherib king of Assyria sent his servants to Jerusalem (but he and all the forces with him laid siege against Lachish), to Hezekiah king of Judah, and to all Judah who were in Jerusalem, saying, 10 Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria: 'In what do you trust, that you remain under siege in Jerusalem? 11 Does not Hezekiah persuade you to give yourselves over to die by famine and by thirst, saying, The LORD our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria? 12 Has not the same Hezekiah taken away His high places and His altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, You shall worship before one altar and burn incense on it?'"

God's Version Of The Same Events

2Chron. 32:13-17 - "13 Do 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 in any way able to deliver their lands out of my hand? 14 Who was there among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed that could deliver his people from my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you from my hand? 15 Now therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or persuade you like this, and do not believe him; for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people from my hand or the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you from my hand?' 16 Furthermore, his servants spoke against the LORD God and against His servant Hezekiah. 17 He also wrote letters to revile the LORD God of Israel, and to speak against Him, saying, 'As the gods of the nations of other lands have not delivered their people from my hand, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver His people from my hand.'"

God's Version Of The Same Events

Isa. 37:21-22, 28-29 - "Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel, Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, 22 this is the word which the LORD has spoken concerning him: ... 28 But I know your dwelling place, Your going out and your coming in, And your rage against Me. 29 Because your rage against Me and your tumult Have come up to My ears, Therefore I will put My hook in your nose And My bridle in your lips, And I will turn you back By the way which you came.'"

God's Version Of The Same Events

2Kings 19:32-37 - "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: 'He shall not come into this city, Nor shoot an arrow there, Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it. 33 By the way that he came, By the same shall he return; And he shall not come into this city, Says the LORD. 34 For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David's sake.' 35 And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses-all dead. 36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh. 37 Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the temple of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place."

God's Version Of The Same Events

2Chron. 32:20-22 - "Now because of this King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, prayed and cried out to heaven, 21 Then the LORD sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor, leader, and captain in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned shamefaced to his own land. And when he had gone into the temple of his god, some of his own offspring struck him down with the sword there. 22 Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all others, and guided them on every side."

God's Version Of The Same Events

- Other kings of Judah and Israel made alliances with pagans; Hezekiah prayed to God in trust
 - Making alliances with other nations was a form of idolatry. They did not trust God; but, by association with pagans, they were trusting their gods.
 - God doesn't have to explain why. We need to trust that what He has told us to do is in our best interests
 - Wait for Him. He has an infallible plan.

It Is Better To Trust In The Lord Than To Trust In Man

- No matter how good a man is, he cannot be compared with God.
 - Psalms 118:8-9 - “It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man. 9 It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in princes.”
 - Jer. 17:5 - “Thus says the LORD: ‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man And makes flesh his strength...’”

It Is Better To Trust In The Lord Than To Trust In Man

- God cannot change, but men are subject to change
 - Heb. 13:8 - “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”
 - Mal. 3:6 - “For I am the LORD, I do not change”

It Is Better To Trust In The Lord Than To Trust In Man

- God cannot lie, but men lie often
 - Num. 23:19 - “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”
 - Heb. 6:18 - “That by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation”

It Is Better To Trust In The Lord Than To Trust In Man

- God cannot fail, but men fail with regularity
 - Rom. 4:21 - “Being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.”
 - Psalm 115:3 - “But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.”
 - Luke 1:37 - “For with God nothing will be impossible.”

It Is Better To Trust In The Lord Than To Trust In Man

- God is faithful, but most men are unfaithful
 - Heb. 11:11 - “By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.”
 - Heb. 10:23 - “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”

It Is Better To Trust In The Lord Than To Trust In Man

- God finishes His works, but men often abandon theirs
 - Isa. 40:28 - “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary.”
 - Heb. 12:2 - “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

It Is Better To Trust In The Lord Than To Trust In Man

- God is omniscient, but man is very limited in knowledge and foresight
 - Heb. 4:13 - “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”
 - 1John 3:20 - “For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.”

It Is Better To Trust In The Lord Than To Trust In Man

- God cannot forget His promises, but men easily forget their promises
 - Isa. 49:15-16 - “Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. 16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands”
 - Gen. 18:14 - “Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”
 - Ex. 2:24 - “God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.”

It Is Better To Trust In The Lord Than To Trust In Man

- God will never betray our trust, but men often do
 - Heb. 13:5 - "...For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you."
 - Joshua 1:5 - "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you."
 - 1Chron. 28:20 - "And David said to his son Solomon, Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God-my God-will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD."

We Must Trust God

- There are three things we desperately need that only He can supply:
- Forgiveness
 - Psalm 32:5 - “I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.”

We Must Trust God

- Protection

- Psalm 32:6-7 - “For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him. 7 You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.”

We Must Trust God

- Instruction
 - Psalm 32:8 - “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.”
 - 1Cor. 1:25 - “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”



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(Hymn by Kittie Louise Suffield, 1884-1972)