

God is Still on His Throne: A Study of Trust

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. 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*)

B. God's version of the same events... the rest of the story

1. 2Kings 18:13-14, 19:14-20; 2Chron. 32:6-17

2. Isa. 37:21-22, 28-29; 2Kings 19:32-37; 2Chron. 32:20-21

C. Other kings made alliances with pagans; Hezekiah prayed to God in trust

1. Making alliances with other nations was a form of idolatry. They did not trust God, but by association with pagans were trusting their gods.

2. God doesn't have to explain why. We need to trust that what He has told us to do is in our best interests.

3. Wait for Him. He has an infallible plan.

I. IT IS BETTER TO TRUST IN THE LORD THAN TO TRUST IN MAN

A. No matter how good a man is, he cannot be compared with God.

1. Psalms 118:8-9; Jer. 17:5

B. God cannot change, but men are subject to change

1. Heb. 13:8; Mal. 3:6

C. God cannot lie, but men lie often

1. Num. 23:19; Heb. 6:18

D. God cannot fail, but men fail with regularity

1. Rom. 4:21; Psalm 115:3; Luke 1:37

E. God is faithful, but most men are unfaithful

1. Heb. 11:11, 10:23

F. God finishes His works, but men often abandon theirs

1. Isa. 40:28; Heb. 12:2

G. God is omniscient, but man is very limited in knowledge and foresight

1. Heb. 4:13; 1John 3:20

H. God cannot forget His promises, but men easily forget their promises

1. Isa. 49:15-16; Gen. 18:14; Ex. 2:24

I. God will never betray our trust, but men often do

1. Heb. 13:5; Joshua 1:5; 1Chron. 28:20

II. WE MUST TRUST GOD

- A. There are three things we desperately need that only He can supply:
 - 1. Forgiveness - Psalm 32:5
 - 2. Our greatest problem is sin. Our relationship with God is affected, eternal life is ended, and our peace of mind is destroyed because of it. All wars, corruption, and societal evils come from sin.
 - 3. Unfortunately, there's no remedy for sin that can be provided by human plans. Sin is an offense against the God's universal law which can be remedied only by the death of the offender.
 - 4. God's surprising solution was payment of the price of sin by the Son's substitutionary death.
- B. Protection - Psalm 32:6-7
 - 1. Whatever measures we take in this world (insurance, home security, protective devices) are ineffective at best, and cannot protect at all from the real dangers. The One who made the world can save us from it
- C. Instruction - Psalm 32:8; 1Cor. 1:25

God is Still on His Throne
(Hymn by Kittie Louise Suffield, 1884-1972)

Have you started for glory and Heaven?
Have you left this old world far behind?
In your heart is the Comforter dwelling?
Can you say, "Praise the Lord, He is mine"?
Have the ones that once walked on the highway
Gone back, and you seem all alone?
Keep your eyes on the prize, for the home in the skies;
God is still on the throne.

Burdened soul, is your heart growing weary
With the toil and the heat of the day?
Does it seem that your path is more thorny
As you journey along on life's way?
Go away and in secret before Him
Tell your grief to the Savior alone;
He will lighten your care, for He still answers prayer;
God is still on the throne.

You may live in a tent or a cottage,
Unnoticed by those who pass by;
But a mansion for you He is building
In that beautiful city on high;
It will outshine the wealth and the splendor
Of the richest on earth we have known;
He's the Architect true, and He's building for you;
God is still on the throne.

He is coming again, is the promise
To disciples when He went away;
In like manner as He has gone from you,
You will see Him returning some day;
Does His tarrying cause you to wonder,
Does it seem He's forgotten His own?
His promise is true, He is coming for you;
God is still on the throne.

God is still on the throne,
And He will remember His own;
Tho' trials may press us and burdens distress us,
He never will leave us alone;
God is still on the throne,
He never forsaketh His own;
His promise is true, He will not forget you,
God is still on the throne.