

“THERE IS ONE GREATER WITH US...”

Presented by

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In Blake’s lesson, “There Are More with Us than Are with Them,” he recounted the story in 2 Kings 6 of how God protected the people of Israel from Ben-Hadad, the wicked king of Syria, by blinding the king’s entire army so that the prophet Elisha could lead the Syrian soldiers to Samaria to turn them over to the king of Israel. In 2 Kings 6:16, Elisha told his scared servant, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

But that is not the **only** time in the Bible when something like that happened. In 2 Chronicles 32 we find the story of **another** wicked king—Sennacherib of Assyria—who was intent on attacking God’s people. The text of 2 Chronicles 32:1 says that “Sennacherib entered Judah and encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them over to himself.” History tells us, however, that Sennacherib did more than just “think.” According to records recovered by archaeologists, the mighty king seized **46** Judean cities and took **200,150** prisoners. Yet Sennacherib never was able to capture either Judah’s king, Hezekiah, or the city of Jerusalem. Why not? Here—as famous news caster Paul Harvey might put it—is “the rest of the story.”

The Bible tells us that “when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come, and that his purpose was to make war against Jerusalem,...he appointed combat commanders over the people, and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying, ‘Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and the horde that is with him; **for there is one greater with us than with him.** With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles’ ” (2 Chronicles 32:2,6-8).

What effect did Hezekiah’s speech have on the people of Judah? We read in 2 Chronicles 32:8 that “the people were encouraged by the words of King Hezekiah.” **They had good reason to be**—as we discover when we read in 2 Kings 18 and 19 what happened next. Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah with a message from God. Isaiah told Hezekiah, “The king of Assyria shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow here, nor come before it with shield, nor build a siege mound against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return; and he shall not come into this city” (2 Kings 19:32-33). Furthermore, in 2 Kings 19:6-7 Isaiah prophesied concerning Sennacherib: “I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.”

In 2 Kings 19:35-37 we see how all of this ended. The Bible says simply, “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. So

Sennacherib, king of Assyria, departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh. Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the temple of his god, that his sons struck him down with the sword.”

Hezekiah’s encouraging words to his people—“Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria,...**for there is one greater with us than with him**”—were absolutely true. **God** was on the side of the people of Judah! Everything that Isaiah had told Hezekiah in his prophecy had come true. After an angel of the Lord destroyed the entire army of 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in a single night, King Sennacherib did indeed go back home, just as 2 Kings 19:33 said he would. And, once he got there, he did indeed “fall by the sword,” just as 2 Kings 19:7 said he would.

What is the message for us today in biblical accounts such as the ones about Elisha and Hezekiah? We need to remember that **no one** can defeat God because **nothing** is too difficult for God to accomplish. As God asked Abraham, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14). Jeremiah wrote, “There is nothing too hard for You” (Jeremiah 32:17). Job commented in regard to God, “He does great things past finding out, yes, wonders without number” (Job 9:10).

For whom does God perform “wonders without number”? Hebrews 2:16 answers that question when it says that God “does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.” Christians today are the spiritual “seed of Abraham.” And because of that, **God** is on **our** side—which is why Paul could write with immense joy that we are “more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37). I cannot speak for you, but when it comes to choosing sides, **I know** whose side **I** want to be on. Do you?