

## Not Afraid or Discouraged!

*“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him” (2 Chronicles 32:7).*

Today's passage shows God's help in times of overwhelming trouble no matter how extreme. Hezekiah prayed, God spoke, and in one night the angel of the Lord defeated Sennacherib by killing 185,000 of his soldiers (2 Chronicles 32:21).

Many of you are at a place in your life where things are either intense or there is a battle in your heart regarding what is happening around you. This passage specifically speaks on how to overcome feelings of concern when we are in uncertain or painful places. It is loaded with insight for our benefit and can guide us in difficult times. Before I go any farther I want to give you a little background on today's passage:

*At the time King Hezekiah of Judah was surrounded by the army of Sennacherib, King of Assyria. Forty-six towns and villages in Judah had been sacked. Over 200,000 residents had been taken captive, along with much spoil. At least 185,000 troops surrounded Jerusalem, and it looked like only a matter of time before the city fell. But proud Sennacherib did not reckon with the fact that Hezekiah's God was the living God who would not be mocked. What extreme adversity they were facing, yet God provides deliverance (2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chronicles 32; Isaiah 36-37).*

Friends, Hezekiah felt totally alone (can you relate?). He felt completely and totally isolated. He was a desperate, yet his actions portrayed something else. His actions portrayed a man that knew God was with him! Hezekiah should have been overcome with fear, grief or total despair, but he wasn't.

Hezekiah knew God would care for him. Hezekiah knew where his help came from and he wasn't alone. You can guarantee He will take care of you too! The Bible is full of individuals who knew God was with them. Whatever is happening right now in your life, you can totally trust in Him and depend on Him for He is your ever present help in trouble.

The truth never changes! He never changes. If Hezekiah and others can cry out in complete dependence to Him, so can you!

I've said it before, and I will say it again, you cannot change most of your circumstances, but you can sure keep your faith in Him while you walk it out! And that, my friends, makes all the difference in how you finish!

“Oh Lord, no matter what I feel. No matter what I see. I will trust in You. Why should I be concerned? I will praise Your Word. I will boast of Your greatness, I will exalt Your name for You are my deliverer. I will be strong and courageous for I know You are with me.”

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November 14, 2017