



THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 8, 2023

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

October 8

Our Next Gospel Meeting

March 3-8, 2024

Weekly Bible Studies

Thursday at 2 on Zoom

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

November 3, 7:30

Address and Contact

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Christ

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“LET GO, AND LET GOD”

The above statement is a fairly common one these days. I like it. It expresses the need to trust God completely. Though not a Bible term, it expresses an abundantly biblical concept. The psalmist calls it waiting on the Lord. (Psalm 27:14)

In our auditorium class Hezekiah has been mentioned a few times. We'll talk about him in greater detail as David takes us deeper into Isaiah's wonderful book. In this article I'm going to jump ahead a bit to an example of Hezekiah doing the very thing the title of this article suggests.

However, when Assyria first reared its head as a deadly threat to his kingdom, Hezekiah did not exactly begin where he ended. Whenever possible, it is beneficial to follow the historic narratives of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles as one studies the prophets. This can offer more insight and a better feel for the nation and city. Such is the case with Hezekiah's efforts to thwart Assyria.

At first, Hezekiah followed closely in the footsteps of his evil father, Ahaz, by trying to buy the Assyrians off. He apologized to Sennacherib and even plundered the temple to find gold and silver to give him. (2 Kings 18:13-16) This effort failed miserably. God does not ignore or gloss over Hezekiah's disappointing initial response. We need not, either. The wonderful thing is that Hezekiah's disappointing beginning becomes one of his finest hours. We'll get to that in a moment.

Hezekiah made some very practical preparations as Assyria made their intentions clear as recorded in 2 Chronicles 32:1-6a. This was a wise move on his part. Trusting God does not mean one sits on their hands doing nothing at all. Hezekiah knew that God could save the city whenever and however he chose. (32:6b-7) If God wanted Hezekiah to send the army out to accomplish it then Hezekiah would make sure they were well equipped. If God wanted Assyria to lay siege for a time before moving against

Members Needing Our Prayers

Jill Harrison, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny and Arlena Poynter, Janett Brundige, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

John Thompson, Veronica Bowman, Cheryl Samons, Georgia Patton, Glenda Miller, Michael Edwards, Alyse Nash, Mary Bishop, Helen Thomas, Patty Hill, Eli Kempton, Sophie Brown, Family of Valari Butler-Jones, Charlie Hoy, Janice Parsons, Allison Walker, Mark Nickles, Dwayne Harrod, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Patty Hill

To Our Guests

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them, Hezekiah would make sure the walls were strong and the Assyrians uncomfortable.

Eventually, however, the Assyrian horde reached the walls of Jerusalem. No more preparations could be made. There was no allied force secretly marching in to catch the Assyrians unawares. In fact, Hezekiah had not called to *any* other nations for help. Perhaps some in the city were questioning the wisdom of that “failure” right about then. To many, it must have seemed that Hezekiah’s only available option was to open the gates in full surrender. The Assyrians certainly believed that to be the only course left to Hezekiah. They were wrong.

Hezekiah and Isaiah hit their knees and “spread it before the Lord.” (Isaiah 37:14; 2 Chronicles 32:20) They placed all their trust and faith in God. They called out to God who heard and answered mightily. (Psalm 18:6) A single angel annihilated the Assyrian army in one night. (Isaiah 37:35-36) “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14)

“Let go, and let God.” Hezekiah got there in the end. What a magnificent display of faith, trust, and the power of God! A.L.

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
Adam Litmer	Marcus Lake	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	James Weatherholt	

