

## What Would You Do?

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by Wayne Goff

In studying the book of Isaiah, it is fascinating to study the *psychological conflict* between Judah's good King Hezekiah and Assyria's idolatrous, worldly-wise King Sennacherib (2 Chron. 32; Isaiah 36-37).

Sennacherib had already defeated most of Judah's fortified cities and was laying siege to Lachish when he sent his ambassadors to Jerusalem to demand an unconditional surrender. His persuasive arguments were designed to destroy any faith or hope in winning the battle against Assyria. Systematically he tried to cast down every vestige of hope: (1) Your God will not deliver you from Assyrian siege; (2) King Hezekiah destroyed the altars and high places of worship to God; (3) What other nations or gods have kept me from defeating them? (4) He even lied and said that Jehovah had sent Assyria to punish Judah. (5) Sennacherib offered to transplant the Jews to a foreign land much like their own native country.

Now, dear reader, place yourself in Jerusalem at this time (ca. 700 B.C.) and ask yourself what you would do. A world power has come up against your nation and has defeated almost every other fortified city except yours. This powerful nation is vicious, cruel and heartless in their military ways. Your nation and king seem physically helpless against these great odds.

### **Would you surrender?**

First, King Hezekiah fortified Jerusalem as best he could (2 Chron. 32:5ff). Then he encouraged his people with remarkable words of faith in this dark hour: *"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. With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles"* (2 Chron. 32:7-8).

The faith of Hezekiah led him to **see** the vast heavenly host and the God of heaven above the great Assyrian army and its King Sennacherib. **THE RESULTS?** God struck dead 185,000 Assyrian soldiers overnight (Is. 37:36)! Every mighty man of valor, leader and captain was killed (2 Chron. 32:21). **THE LESSON?** *"...Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world"* (1 Jn. 4:4). So fight your spiritual battles with confidence!

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