

Overcoming Sin

April 8th, 2012

It Sounds So Simple

How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? . . . our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin . . . Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Romans 6:2b,6,11-12

The Legendary Power

Introducing the "Great king" of Assyria

The kings of Assyria were men of war, men who thirsted for power, control, glory, and wealth. The tradition amongst the kings of Assyria was to refer to themselves as "the Great King" - or in other words, "the King of kings."

The Assyrian kings built Assyria for battle - the entire culture was a culture of war and military stratagem. Everyone was trained for war and for military conquest, and thusly, Assyrians have been termed in history as the "Romans of the East." In its age of glory, Assyria subdued the whole

of Northern Asia, while the lust for land, power, and plunder consumed the nation.

Upon the backs of this bloodthirst and conquest, the capital city of the empire of the Assyrians was built in unprecedented luxury. This capital city, known as Nineveh, was so grand and sprawling that it was termed the “exceeding great city of three days’ journey.” Nahum, the prophet, call Nineveh the “Bloody City” - a city full of lies and robbery.

The Assyrian royalty maintained an unparalleled luxury and comfort during their 100 years of uninterrupted power and dominion, plundering the wealth of twenty major nations. The “Great King” Sargon brought the Hittites to their knees and took their treasure. The “Great Kings” Esarhaddon and Assur-bani-pal pillaged Egypt and her great cities, and they removed the treasures of Sais, Memphis, and Thebes. Sennacherib overcame Chaldea, and the treasures of Babylon were transferred to his coffers. And as you will see, in this message, the “Great King” of Assyria also plundered the Kingdom of Israel of its historic wealth and sacred treasure. In other words, Assyria demonstrated absolute sway and unparalleled dominion in its age. During those 100 years of power, it was widely recognized that “the Great King gets whatever the Great King wants.”

Introducing the Rebel King of Judah

(Hezekiah) was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem . . . And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done . . . He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him. For he held fast to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses. The LORD

was with him; he prospered wherever he went. **And he rebelled**
against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

2 Kings 18:1-7

The Players

1. **The Great King** - Sennacherib (the power of Sin)
2. **King Hezekiah** (the remnant, the sheep, the one who believes)
3. **So, Pharaoh of Egypt** (the flesh, human solution, the right arm of the world)
4. **The Kingdom of Israel** (the brother, the goats)
5. **The Lord of Hosts** (the long-forgotten Solution)

The Anatomy of Bondage

Reading Assyria's Press Clippings

The Hundred Gold Coins of Faith

Where are you investing your confidences?

Born in a Day of Compromise

Growing up in the Modern Church

Now it came to pass in the fourth year of King Hezekiah that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it. And at the end of three years they took it . . . Then the king of Assyria carried Israel away captive to Assyria . . . because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed His covenant and all that Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded; and they would neither hear nor do them.

2 Kings 18:9-12

Beholding the Power of Sin

Trembling before its reputation, awe-inspired by its sway

The Modern Church War Council

- There isn't a man alive today, that isn't under the thumb of lust and sexual addiction.
- Anxiety is completely normal, its an acceptable dimension of life that we all just accept.
- Life is chaos, just get used to it.
- Fear is human. Everyone in a time of crisis would do the same. Don't feel bad about it.
- Women gossip, that's just the way it is.
- Everyone is addicted to something. I mean, what's life without some form of self-comforting addiction?

The Ancient Judean War Council

- There isn't a nation alive today, that isn't under the thumb of the "Great King."
- Paying tribute to the "Great King" is completely normal, its an acceptable dimension of life that we all just accept.
- The Assyrians rule, just get used to it.
- Fearing the "Great King" is human. Everyone when faced with the power of the Assyrians would do the same. Don't feel bad about it.
- Nations cower before the "Great King" - that's just the way it is.
- Everyone is subservient to the Assyrians. I mean, what's life without paying tribute to the "Great King" daily?

Dealing with your own Personal Experience of Defeat

And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; turn away from me; whatever you impose on me I will pay." And the king of Assyria assessed Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house. At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

2 Kings 18:13-16

Turning to “So”

Let's see what the flesh can do for us

So doesn't pay up. He doesn't deliver in the time of need. He's a wolf in sheep's clothing. He's not truly your friend.

But, So, you said that you would fight for me . . .

But, So, you promised that you would never leave me nor forsake me . . .

But, So, you assured me that you would supply the necessary tribute . . .

For I (Paul) know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwells no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not . . . O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 7:18,24,25a

The Agony of the Dark Night

Knowing what you ought to do, but not having the power with which to do it

And he (King Hezekiah) rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

2 Kings 18:7

Thus says Hezekiah: This day is a day of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but there is no strength to bring them forth.

2 Kings 19:1-3

I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

Jacob

in the early morning hours of Passover day

Sennacherib (*Sin - a bramble of destruction*)

He claims to have conquered 46 strongholds of Hezekiah's territory

*I have King Hezekiah penned into his royal city, Jerusalem,
like a bird in a cage.*

King Sennacherib

his kingly journal, circa 714 B.C.

The Dark Night

The Time of the 47th Stronghold

Then the king of Assyria sent **the Tartan** (the field marshal, the general, the commander of the Assyrian army), **the Rabsaris** (the chief eunuch - high ranking official in the Assyrian empire), and **the Rabshakeh** (the chief cup bearer, the chief of the officers) from Lachish, with a great army against Jerusalem, to King Hezekiah. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they had come up, they went and

stood by the aqueduct from the upper pool, which was on the highway to the Fuller's Field.

2 Kings 18:17

The Pressing of Assyria

and the opening of the window of opportunity

Has any of the gods of the nations at all delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim and Hena and Ivah? Indeed, have they delivered Samaria from my hand? Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?

2 Kings 18:28-35

The Ancient Futile Gods of Wood and Stone

they could not stop the armies of Sennacherib, the “Great King”

1. The god of Hamath
2. The god of Arpad
3. The god of Sepharvaim
4. The god of Hena
5. The god of Ivah

The Modern Futile Gods of Wood and Stone

they cannot stop the unstoppable and overwhelming effects of Sin

1. The god of Hamath - materialism, things
2. The god of Arpad - knowledge, learning, accomplishment
3. The god of Sepharvaim - comforts, pleasures of the flesh

4. The god of Hena - fame, popularity, power
5. The god of Ivah - human goodness, humanitarian labor

The “Great King” Even Exposes the Fraudulence of “So”

Then the Rabshakeh said to them, Say now to Hezekiah, Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: What confidence is this in which you trust? You speak of having plans and power for war; but they are mere words. And in whom do you trust, that you rebel against me? Now look! You are trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, **it will go into his hand and pierce it.** So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.

2 Kings 18:19-21

The Pack and the Pact

- The Mean Wolf Pack
- The Sheep
- The Pact with the Bears
- The Shepherd

The Siege on the 47th

Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out with a loud voice in Hebrew, and spoke, saying, Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria! Thus says the king: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he shall not be able to deliver you from his hand; nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, The LORD will surely deliver us; this city shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: Make peace with me by a present and come out to

me . . . But do not listen to Hezekiah, lest he persuade you, saying, The LORD will deliver us. Has any of the gods of the nations at all delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim and Hena and Ivah? Indeed, have they delivered Samaria from my hand? Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?

2 Kings 18:28-35

And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. Then he sent . . . to Isaiah the prophet . . . And they said to him, Thus says Hezekiah: This day is a day of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but there is no strength to bring them forth.

2 Kings 19:1-3

And Isaiah said to them, Thus you shall say to your master, Thus says the LORD: Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me . . .

2 Kings 19:6

So (King Sennacherib) again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying: Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. Look! You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by utterly destroying them; and shall you be delivered? . . . And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.

2 Kings 19:9-11,14

Fact, Faith, and Experience

Remembering the work of the truly Great King

The Prayer of the Dark Night

Forsaking faith in the Legendary Power of the Assyrians for faith in the Legendary Power of Jehovah

Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God. Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands--wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them. Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone."

2 Kings 19:15-19

Then Isaiah . . . sent to Hezekiah, saying, Thus says the LORD God of Israel: Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard. This is the word which the LORD has spoken concerning him . . . *Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice, And lifted up your eyes on high? Against the Holy One of Israel . . . Because your rage against Me and your tumult have come up to My ears, Therefore I will put My hook in your nose and My bridle in your lips, And I will turn you back by the way which you came . . . The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city, Nor shoot an arrow there, 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, Says the LORD. For I will defend this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.

2 Kings 19:20-22, 28-34

Resurrection Morning

The Death of the Old, the Birth of the New

And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved. And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.

Genesis 32:30-31

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.

2 Kings 19:28-35

Out of Death Comes Life

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Or do you not know that **as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life.** For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of **His resurrection**, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. **Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him**, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. **Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Romans 6:3-11

The Appeal of Hezekiah

Now, in the fourth year of the reign of Hoshea, Hezekiah, the son of Ahaz, began to reign in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Abijah, a citizen of Jerusalem. His nature was good, and righteous, and religious; for when he came to the kingdom, he thought that nothing was prior, or more necessary, or more advantageous to himself, and to his subjects, than to worship God. Accordingly, he called the people together, and the priests, and the Levites, and made a speech to them, and said, "You are not ignorant how, by **the sins of my father**, who transgressed that

sacred honor which was due to God, you have had experience of many and great miseries, while you were corrupted in your mind by him, and were induced to worship those which he supposed to be gods; I exhort you, therefore, who have learned by sad experience how dangerous a thing impiety is, to put that immediately out of your memory, and to purify yourselves from your former pollutions, and to open the temple to these priests and Levites who are here convened, and to cleanse it with the accustomed sacrifices, and to recover all to the ancient honor which our fathers paid to it; for by this means we may render God favorable, and he will remit the anger he hath had to us.

Flavius Josephus

Antiquities, Volume 9, Chapter 13, Paragraph 1

And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel . . . Then the runners went throughout all Israel and Judah with the letters from the king and his leaders, and spoke according to the command of the king: Children of Israel, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; then He will return to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. And do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, so that He gave them up to desolation, as you see. Now do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD; and enter His sanctuary, which He has sanctified forever, and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you . . . So the runners passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun; but they laughed at them and mocked them. Nevertheless some from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. Also the hand of God was on Judah to give them singleness of heart to obey the command of the king and the leaders, at the word of the LORD.

2 Chronicles 30:1,6-7,10-12

5 Practical Steps to Overcoming Sin

1. Take advantage of this window of opportunity (This dark night, the siege on the 47th stronghold).
2. Get In Christ (Return to the Sanctuary of the Lord).
3. Transfer the Coins of your Faith - Look upon the Cross (Remember the Legendary Power of our God - celebrate the Passover)
4. Reckon the Old Man Dead. (185,000 corpses)
5. Reckon yourself Alive in Christ. (It's resurrection morning, and our God lives.)

And he (King Hezekiah) rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

2 Kings 18:7

Every other king bows, but not Hezekiah

Every other nation pays tribute, but not Hezekiah

Every one else may bow and pay homage to the power of Sin, but not you

Every one else may pay tribute to the "Great King," but not you - for you serve the real King of kings.

May it be said of you . . .

And he (or she) rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.