

Monday, 24 October 2016

2 Kings 18:1-3

In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done.

The story of two kingdoms. The nation of Israel and its king, Hoshea, deserted the LORD, God the Almighty, but Hezekiah, King of Judah, turned to the LORD and cleaned the nation. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD.

Is there hope for the Western Church today? Yes, of course. It is to adopt a course of repentance and obedience. It is to bring every aspect of our lives and testimony into accordance with the Word of God and to live that life boldly.

Tuesday, 25 October 2016

2 Kings 18:4-5

He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him.

What are the church's Asherah? Its Nehushtan? What other gods have we placed before our trust in the LORD, God the Almighty? Where are we using the LORD's Name in vain?

What other idols are we worshiping? How are we desecrating the Sabbath? Let alone ignoring the following six.

Each one of us is called to be a Hezekiah. First of all to live a life of faith and trust, then to speak out in love and compassion against all evidence of disobedience within our ranks.

Wednesday, 26 October 2016

2 Kings 18:6-8

For he held fast to the LORD. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the LORD commanded Moses. And the LORD was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him. He struck down the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

Then and only then will the LORD hear my cries for revival. then and only then will we see a revived and renewed Church, a Church who is empowered and enabled to speak against the evils of the surrounding culture.

Thursday, 27 October 2016

2 Kings 18:13-19

In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; withdraw from me. Whatever you impose on me I will bear." And the king of Assyria required of Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. And 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 doorposts that Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid and gave it to the king of Assyria. And the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rab-saris, and the Rabshakeh with a great army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they arrived, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is on the highway to the Washer's Field. And when they called for the king, there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder. And the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours?

Oops, what happened here? A strong confrontation by the forces of evil and Hezekiah caved. And that demonstration of willingness to abandon the LORD, to no longer depend upon His strength and willingness to carry Judah through led to a further assault upon their witness.

We must stand fast!

Friday, 28 October 2016

2 Kings 19:1-4

As soon as King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of the LORD. And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz. They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the

point of birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. It may be that the LORD your God heard all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the LORD your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left."

It was not so much that Isaiah prayed but that Hezekiah repented (v1) of his lack of trust in the arm of the LORD, God the Almighty. His decision to strip the Temple of the LORD and give the treasure to a heathen ruler was the action that brought this crisis upon Judah.

His repentance was crucial. So is ours.

Saturday, 29 October 2016

2 Kings 19:5-7

When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me. Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land, and I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.'"

And the LORD heard Hezekiah's cries of repentance and honored them by removing the threat to Judah.

Is it not time to stand in our assemblies and declare that the word of the LORD, God the Almighty must govern our lives? Can we not expect the same when we are willing to repent of our acceptance of the mores of the culture around us?

Lord's Day, 30 October 2016

Psalm 119:1-3

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

Lord, what a picture is presented here of the fruit of obedience. As I seek to follow You and to be obedient to You all the blessings of being in Your Kingdom flow to me. Not at some indefinite time in the future but now. The Kingdom of heaven is available to me now! NOW!

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



October 24-30, 2016

I was dealing with a very difficult and perplexing problem in the spring of 1989 and tackling it by trying to learn everything I could on the subject. One evening, as I continued my studies, God told me very clearly that the root of the problem was that I did not know Him. I put down the book I was reading and picked up a Bible figuring that was where I was going to find Him. That began what has been a 27-year search to know, really know in a John 17:3 way, the Lord, God the Almighty.*

Voices Together has and continues to be, a very important part of that search. It is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Scriptures as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

Pastor John Nunnikhoven
The Church at Prison, Inc.
PO Box 8318
Essex Junction, VT 05452

or at
The Fellowship of Ailbe, voices@ailbe.org
Realizing the presence, promise and power
of the Kingdom of God.

*LORD or LORD, God the Almighty always refers to the Trinitarian God.