

Monday, 31 October 2016 **2 Kings 19:10**

"Thus shall you speak to Hezekiah king of Judah: 'Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.

How often today do we hear these ancient words, "*Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by promising that ...*"? How often will we expect to hear that phrase in the future as the Christian faith continues to fall into disfavor? Lord grant me the strength and will to respond as Hezekiah did.

"2 Kings 19:14,19 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. And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said:...So now, O LORD our God, save us, please, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O LORD, are God alone."

Tuesday, 1 November 2016 **2 Kings 22:13**

"Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

Where is the King Josiah of this day? Is it not each one of us who are hearing the message that the church is ignoring the Word of the LORD and is living according to the mores of the culture? Are we not called to cry out for repentance and revival and restoration? Are we not called to cry out to the church, "Obey the Word of the LORD?"

Wednesday, 2 November 2016 **1 Chronicles 5:18-20**

The Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh had valiant men who carried shield and sword, and drew the bow, expert in war, 44,760, able to go to war. They waged war against the Hagrites, Jetur, Naphish, and Nodab. And when they prevailed over them, the Hagrites and all who were with them were given into their hands, for they cried out to God in the battle, and he granted their urgent plea because they trusted in him.

An interesting little story, tucked away in a genealogy. Two

tribes plus a half tribe settled on the east side of the Jordan, over time falling away from the LORD. However in the days of Jeroboam, they went to war against some Ishmaelite tribes and called upon the Lord. Their plea was granted because they trusted in Him.

What a story for today. Yes, we have fallen away. Yes we are engaged with a battle. Yes, we need to call upon the LORD and trust in Him.

And He will grant our urgent plea.

Thursday, 3 November 2016 **1 Chronicles 9:22**

All these, who were chosen as gatekeepers at the thresholds, were 212. They were enrolled by genealogies in their villages. David and Samuel the seer established them in their office of trust.

Interesting upon reading the preceding passages that the offices and responsibilities being filled were after the return from exile, but had been set in place by David and Samuel. The offices were entrusted to them. This implies that they could search the records (the genealogies) to see how the responsibilities were to be met.

It's the same today in that I can search the Scriptures and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to find guidance in how I am to make disciples as I go.

Friday, 4 November 2016 **1 Chronicles 29:23**

Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king in place of David his father. And he prospered, and all Israel obeyed him.

King Solomon has been replaced by King Jesus and I am to obey Him. It is not in the mindset of the normal red blooded, freedom loving American to think of obedience in terms of obeying a king so a major overhaul of my thinking is required.

This is not an easy process; two things must come together for a successful outcome. One is the guidance of the Holy Spirit through the Scriptures, the other is my willingness to submit to that guidance.

Saturday, 5 November 2016 **2 Chronicles 9:3-6**

And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his

officials, and the attendance of his servants, and their clothing, his cupbearers, and their clothing, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the LORD, there was no more breath in her. And she said to the king, "The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom, but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, half the greatness of your wisdom was not told me; you surpass the report that I heard.

The queen of Sheba did not believe what she heard.

Impossible, gross exaggerations! I remember hearing reports of the transformation of a man with a very ugly criminal past and saying, not just to myself, "Impossible, gross exaggerations!"

I, like the queen, had to retract and ask forgiveness for my judgment. I saw the witness of a man truly transformed by the power of the Cross of Jesus Christ. I believe the reports. May others see and believe because of my transformation.

Lord's Day, 6 November 2016 Psalm 119:9-16

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Lord, it is the discipline of filling my heart with Your Word that prepares me for the onslaughts of the enemy. That soaking in the Word that provides the fodder for the Holy Spirit to teach and lead me. How can I declare the Good News unless it is stored up and ready to be proclaimed? How can I recognize the path before me unless I am thoroughly familiar with the map that is Your Holy Writ? Truly, Lord, to meditate on Your testimonies and to find truth in Your precepts is great joy and the delight of my life.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



October 31-November 6, 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.