

When Bad Things Happen

2 Kings 18-19, 2 Chronicles 32

📖 Isaiah 33:6 (NIV) “He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.”

📖 1 Corinthians 10:11 (NIV) “These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.”

Bad **things** happen to **good** people.

📖 2 Kings 18:5–7a (NIV) “Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. ⁶ He held fast to the Lord and did not cease to follow Him; he kept the commands the Lord had given Moses. ⁷ And the Lord was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook.”

📖 2 Chronicles 32:1 (NIV) “After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, thinking to conquer them for himself.”

Bad **people** do **bad** things.

📖 2 Kings 18:19–22 (NIV) “The field commander said to them, “Tell Hezekiah: “ ‘This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: On what are you basing this confidence of yours? ²⁰ You say you have strategy and military strength—but you speak only empty words. On whom are you depending, that you rebel against me? ²¹ Look now, you are depending on Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff, which pierces a man’s hand and wounds him if he leans on it! Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who depend on him. ²² And if you say to me, “We are depending on the Lord our God”—isn’t he the one whose high places and altars Hezekiah removed, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, “You must worship before this altar in Jerusalem?””

📖 2 Kings 18:3–4a (NIV) He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father David had done. ⁴ He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it.”

📖 2 Kings 18:25 (NIV) “Furthermore, have I come to attack and destroy this place without word from the Lord? The Lord himself told me to march against this country and destroy it.”

📖 2 Kings 18:30–35 (NIV) “Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the Lord when he says, ‘The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.’ ³¹ “Do not listen to Hezekiah. This is what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me and come out to me. Then every one of you will eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern, ³² until I come and take you to a land like your own, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey. Choose life and not death! “Do not listen to Hezekiah, for he is misleading you when he says, ‘The Lord will deliver us.’ ³³ Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria? ³⁴ Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena and Ivvah? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand? ³⁵ Who of all the gods of these countries has been able to save his land from me? How then can the Lord deliver Jerusalem from my hand?”

📖 2 Kings 18:36 (NIV) “But the people remained silent and said nothing in reply, because the king had commanded, “Do not answer him.”

Bad times help us do meaningful things.

📖 2 Kings 19:15–19 (NIV) “And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord: “O Lord, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. ¹⁶ Give ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to insult the living God. ¹⁷ “It is true, O Lord, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands. ¹⁸ They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by men’s hands. ¹⁹ Now, O Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O Lord, are God.”

📖 Isaiah 33:6 (NIV) “He [God] will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.”

📖 1 John 4:18 (NIV) “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”

📖 Proverbs 9:10 (NIV) “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

📖 Proverbs 14:27 (NIV) “The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.”

The Fear of the LORD means reverence, respect, and awe that leads to obedience.

📖 2 Chronicles 32:20–21 (NIV) “King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer to heaven about this. ²¹ And the Lord sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men [185,000] and the leaders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. Judah didn’t even have to get out of bed. So he [Sennacherib] withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons cut him down with the sword.”



Consider the promise of God in Isaiah 33:6. What does God say He will provide? What condition is vital to receive that promise? What does it mean (and not mean) to fear the Lord? Discuss the statement, **“When you fear the Lord, you have nothing else to fear.”** Before Hezekiah planned, he prayed. Why is it hard to pray before we take action? In a crisis, why is it important to worship God before we bring our needs to Him?