

## **“The Full Armor of God” Part 3** (Ephesians 6:10-18)(7.23.23)

### INTRODUCTION:

Today, we deviate from the norm. We are not going to read Ephesians 6:10-18 because this is the third week of this sermon series on the Armor of God and we read it the last two weeks. If you were not here in person or on Zoom, you might be among the 125 people who watched on Facebook in the last two weeks. It is a very familiar piece of scripture to mature Christians.

This week, I was reminded of the scriptural record of King Hezekiah. In 2 Kings, chapter 18 & 19, we have an historical record that demonstrates why we need to put on the full armor of God. It can be used as an illustration for the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Ephesians.

I will read through both chapters and provide commentary as we go along. As we read, I want you to be listening for several elements.

- Think about each piece of the armor of God
- What are the weapons of the Enemy?
- The source of truth

➤ The Sovereignty of God

Please note, this is Old Testament history, so there are a lot of unusual names for us to hear. You must be disciplined to be attentive and not be put off by the difficulty of the names.

2 Kings 18–19 (NIV84) *Hezekiah King of Judah*

**18** In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign.

{Israel was the Northern Kingdom, and Judah was the Southern Kingdom of the Hebrew people, the Chosen People of God}

<sup>2</sup>He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah.<sup>3</sup>He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father David had done.

{So that be confusing. We just read that Hezekiah was the son of Ahaz and here we are told that King David was his father. Well Hezekiah was in the "line of David," but the critical element was that they shared the same love for God.}

<sup>4</sup>He [Hezekiah] 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. (It was called Nehushtan.)

{All idolatry must be destroyed, even when it is popular.

This reference to the bronze snake may seem mysterious. The Book of Numbers chapter 21 explains. This happens after the LORD had given Israel victory in response to their vow. Numbers 21:4–9 (NIV84)

<sup>4</sup>They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way;<sup>5</sup> they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

<sup>6</sup>Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.<sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

<sup>8</sup>The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.”<sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze snake and put

it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

This bronze snake was a good thing. Though the people were bitten by poisonous snakes and were sure to die, if they looked up at the bronze snake on the pole, they would live. Jesus references this in John 3:14–15 (NIV84)

<sup>14</sup>Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,<sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

So, why did Hezekiah destroy it. Because he was demolishing the strongholds of idolatry AND the people had started worshiping the **thing that pointed** to God instead of God Himself.

This is the work of the Enemy. He is the master of deception. He is the master of the counterfeit. This is why we need the helmet of salvation. We need our minds protected because the mind is a primary avenue of the Devil and his demons to attack you and your faith. If he can get us just slightly off course today, in a year we will have lost our way.}

<sup>5</sup>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.<sup>6</sup>He held fast to the Lord and did not cease to follow him; he

kept the commands the Lord had given Moses.<sup>7</sup> And the Lord was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook.

{Hezekiah wore the breastplate of righteousness. He always had it on and never took it off. He held fast. He stood firm.}

He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.<sup>8</sup> From watchtower to fortified city, he defeated the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory.

<sup>9</sup>In King Hezekiah's fourth year, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria marched against Samaria [that's the Northern Kingdom] and laid siege to it.<sup>10</sup> At the end of three years the Assyrians took it. So Samaria was captured in Hezekiah's sixth year, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel.<sup>11</sup> The king of Assyria deported Israel to Assyria and settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the Habor River and in towns of the Medes.<sup>12</sup> This happened because they had not obeyed the Lord their God, but had violated his covenant—all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded. They neither listened to the commands nor carried them out.

{Why was Samaria defeated and deported?  
Because they were disobedient to the word of God.

Moses had been dead for hundreds of years, but he recorded God's commands in the first five books of our Bible. Though they had been warned many times through the prophets, the people refused to don the breastplate of righteousness.

Instead, they mimicked the cultures around them. They were beguiled by the Devil and his demons. They did not resist the Devil. They fell for his schemes and deceptions. They refused to listen to the truth; so, how could they live in the truth? In fact, they had failed to take up the Sword of the Spirit, the word of God. They failed to take up the weapon at their disposal that will defeat Satan.}

<sup>13</sup>In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. <sup>14</sup>So Hezekiah king of Judah sent this message to the king of Assyria at Lachish: "I have done wrong. Withdraw from me, and I will pay whatever you demand of me." The king of Assyria exacted from Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. <sup>15</sup>So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the temple of the Lord and in the treasuries of the royal palace.

<sup>16</sup>At this time Hezekiah king of Judah stripped off the gold with which he had covered the doors and

doorposts of the temple of the Lord, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

{In my estimation, this was a moment of weakness by Hezekiah. He thought that maybe he could buy off the Enemy. Not only did he agree to pay the king of Assyria the demanded tribute, he even desecrated the Temple of the Lord to pay extra in an attempt to appease the appetite of the Enemy.

The thirst of hell cannot be quenched: One more drink, one more pill, one more roll of the dice, this will absolutely be the last time...You cannot trust Satan. He is the master of the bait and switch.

Now, think of the modern Church. What things that were dedicated to God have we stripped off and surrendered to the Enemy. Where have we compromised righteousness? Where have we compromised the word of God? Where have we compromised the truth? We have NOT STOOD FIRM.}

### *Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem*

<sup>17</sup>The king of Assyria sent his supreme commander, his chief officer and his field commander with a large army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. They came up to Jerusalem and stopped at the aqueduct of the

Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field.  
<sup>18</sup>They called for the king; and Eliakim son of  
Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the  
secretary, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder  
went out to them.

<sup>19</sup>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?<sup>20</sup> You say you have strategy and military  
strength—but you speak only empty words. On  
whom are you depending, that you rebel against  
me?<sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup>  
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"?

<sup>23</sup>"Come now, make a bargain with my master,  
the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand  
horses—if you can put riders on them!<sup>24</sup> How can  
you repulse one officer of the least of my master's  
officials, even though you are depending on Egypt  
for chariots and horsemen?<sup>25</sup> 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.' "

{The spokesman for King *Sennacherib* declared that the situation was hopeless. We are way too powerful. No one else has stood a chance and you don't either. No human allies can rescue you. You are totally alone and helpless. Even you God is against you.

Doesn't this sound exactly like the kind of discouragement that the Devil dishes out? Remember, he has been a liar from the beginning, the Father of Lies. He is a thief and a murderer.}

<sup>26</sup> Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, and Shebna and Joah said to the field commander, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, since we understand it. Don't speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people on the wall."

<sup>27</sup> But the commander replied, "Was it only to your master and you that my master sent me to say these things, and not to the men sitting on the wall—who, like you, will have to eat their own filth and drink their own urine?"

<sup>28</sup> Then the commander stood and called out in Hebrew: "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria!" <sup>29</sup> This is what the king says: Do not let

Hezekiah deceive you. He cannot deliver you from my hand.<sup>30</sup> 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.'

<sup>31</sup>"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,<sup>32</sup> 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.'<sup>33</sup> Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria?<sup>34</sup> Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena and Ivvah? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand?<sup>35</sup> 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?"

{What is going on here? Propaganda. Fear mongering. The undermining of the authority of King Hezekiah over his people. The undermining of

faith in their king. The undermining of their faith in their LORD.

In conjunction, the people are promised a good life; a comfortable life; a safe life; a home away from home. They are told by the Enemy to choose life and not death! But of course, this is the opposite of the truth. Good is called evil and evil is called good.

They need to take up their shields of faith. It was a common tactic for the attacking forces to use flaming arrows to shoot over the walls and burn the city. Paul tells us to lift up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

An important aspect of these shields is that they could protect from frontal attacks and attacks from the air. Another benefit of these shields, is they would help protect fellow soldiers near you. A lesser known feature is that they could be physically interlocked. Then you could create a battering ram in effect and march straight at the enemy with CONFIDENCE, with FAITH.}

<sup>36</sup> But the people remained silent and said nothing in reply, because the king had commanded, "Do not answer him."

<sup>37</sup> Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went to Hezekiah, with their clothes torn, and told him what the field commander had said.

### *Jerusalem's Deliverance Foretold*

**19** When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the temple of the Lord.<sup>2</sup> He sent Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary and the leading priests, all wearing sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.<sup>3</sup> They told him, "This is what Hezekiah says: This day is a day of distress and rebuke and disgrace, as when children come to the point of birth and there is no strength to deliver them.<sup>4</sup> It may be that the Lord your God will hear all the words of the field commander, whom his master, the king of Assyria, has sent to ridicule the living God, and that he will rebuke him for the words the Lord your God has heard. Therefore pray for the remnant that still survives."

{What is the Hezekiah's response? He was grieved. In humility he went into the Temple of the Lord. He wanted to be in God's presence. Surely he was praying just as he asked the great prophet Isaiah to pray.}

<sup>5</sup> When King Hezekiah's officials came to Isaiah, <sup>6</sup> Isaiah said to them, "Tell your master, '**This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid of what you have heard**—those words with which the underlings of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.<sup>7</sup> Listen! I am going to put such a spirit in him that when he hears a certain report, he will return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword.'

<sup>8</sup> When the field commander heard that the king of Assyria had left Lachish, he withdrew and found the king fighting against Libnah.

<sup>9</sup> Now Sennacherib received a report that Tirhakah, the Cushite king of Egypt, was marching out to fight against him. So he again sent messengers to Hezekiah with this word: <sup>10</sup> "Say to Hezekiah king of Judah: Do not let the god you depend on deceive you when he says, 'Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.'<sup>11</sup> Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries, destroying them completely. And will you be delivered?<sup>12</sup> Did the gods of the nations that were destroyed by my forefathers deliver them: the gods of Gozan, Haran, Rezeph and the people of Eden who were in Tel Assar?<sup>13</sup> Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, or of Hena or Ivvah?"

{Talk about pride...King Sennacherib tells Hezekiah, "Are you going to believe your god or are you going to believe me? Look around you. Read the papers. Get the Facebook fact checkers on it. I have defeated all those who have opposed me."

Remember that Lucifer was cast out of heaven for wanting to displace God. Pride is a common weakness to powerful and successful people. Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.}

### *Hezekiah's Prayer*

<sup>14</sup> Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> "It is true, O Lord, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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.”

{Again, Hezekiah seeks out the presence of the Lord. Literally and figuratively, he lays out the whole situation before the LORD God.

He prayed earnestly. He prayed on the basis of God’s character. He prayed against the Enemy. He prayed for God’s faithful remnant. He prayed for the cause of God’s kingdom.}

### *Isaiah Prophecies Sennacherib’s Fall*

<sup>20</sup>Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I have heard your prayer concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria.<sup>21</sup> This is the word that the Lord has spoken against him:

“The Virgin Daughter of Zion despises you and mocks you.

The Daughter of Jerusalem tosses her head as you flee.

<sup>22</sup> Who is it you have insulted and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride?

Against the Holy One of Israel!

<sup>23</sup> By your messengers

you have heaped insults on the Lord.

And you have said,

“With my many chariots

I have ascended the heights of the mountains,

the utmost heights of Lebanon.

I have cut down its tallest cedars,

the choicest of its pines.

I have reached its remotest parts,

the finest of its forests.

<sup>24</sup> I have dug wells in foreign lands

and drunk the water there.

With the soles of my feet

I have dried up all the streams of Egypt.”

<sup>25</sup> ““Have you not heard?

Long ago I ordained it.

In days of old I planned it;



now I have brought it to pass,  
that you have turned fortified cities  
into piles of stone.

<sup>26</sup> Their people, drained of power,  
are dismayed and put to shame.  
They are like plants in the field,  
like tender green shoots,  
like grass sprouting on the roof,  
scorched before it grows up.

<sup>27</sup> “‘But I know where you stay  
and when you come and go  
and how you rage against me.

<sup>28</sup> Because you rage against me  
and your insolence has reached my ears,  
I will put my hook in your nose  
and my bit in your mouth,  
and I will make you return  
by the way you came.’

<sup>29</sup>“This will be the sign for you, O Hezekiah:

“This year you will eat what grows by itself,  
and the second year what springs from that.

But in the third year sow and reap,

plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

<sup>30</sup> Once more a remnant of the house of Judah  
will take root below and bear fruit above.

<sup>31</sup> For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant,

and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

<sup>32</sup>“Therefore this is what the Lord says concerning  
the king of Assyria:

“He will not enter this city

or shoot an arrow here.

He will not come before it with shield

or build a siege ramp against it.

<sup>33</sup> By the way that he came he will return;

he will not enter this city,

declares the Lord.

<sup>34</sup> I will defend this city and save it,  
for my sake and for the sake of David my servant.”

{God hears the cry of His people. God hears our prayers. God responds to prayer. The Lord Almighty, the Lord of Hosts, always delivers on His promises.}

<sup>35</sup> That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies!<sup>36</sup> So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.

<sup>37</sup> One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer cut him down with the sword, and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son succeeded him as king.

{Evil begets evil. We reap what we sow. And the Devil gets his due: Revelation 20:10 (NIV84) And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.}

## CONCLUSION:

To succeed in our faith walk, we must put on the full armor of God. Keep that belt of truth cinched tightly around your waist. Stand firm and keep on standing. Pray in humility. Pray in zeal. Pray for others. Pray specifically. Pray continually. Therefore, having strapped on your feet the gospel of peace, you are prepared to face the Enemy.

Our victory is assured for nothing can separate us from the love of God. Praise the Lord!

Amen and amen. Let us pray.