

Theme: The trials we face are certainly part of the providence of God. Those who cry out to him in humility and faith, even in the midst of trial, will find him faithful to his promises and mighty to save.

Background: Hezekiah strives to undo the damage of his father’s reign.

Introduction: Sometimes it can be hard for us to “connect the dots” between God’s sovereign plans and our own plans. However, if we don’t it can lead to...

I. A Crisis of Faith

A. Faithful Hezekiah

1. Hezekiah’s restoration and reforms (See also 2 Chronicles 29-31)
 - No king like him before or after (18:5,6)
 - Ahaz had locked up the temple – Hezekiah restored it
2. Defying Assyria
 - To serve the LORD (7)
 - Act of faith – refusing to pay the tribute

B. Faltering Hezekiah (13-14b)

1. Sennacherib demands huge tribute
2. Hezekiah bows to the pressure

C. Their faith is attacked

1. Who will you trust in now? (21-24)
 - Egypt?
 - The LORD?
NOTE: The Rabshakeh foolishly believes that they have limited (not solidified) their worship by removing the high places.
 - Your own strength? (23)
2. Hitting a nerve! (25)
 - Has the LORD sent the Assyrians?
 - Is the LORD against them as he was against Israel?

3. Attacking their *faith!*

4. Taking it to the people! (26)

D. Mocking the faithful (18:30-35; 19:4)

1. Your God can’t deliver you!
2. Answered with silence

NOTE: The King’s faith was renewed. (18:32)

APPLICATION: We’re in a time of trial, challenge. Has the LORD brought us to this place? Certainly! Meant to shake our faith or deepen it?

II. The Cry of Faith

A. Seeking the Word of the LORD

1. Humbled before the LORD
2. Isaiah (the LORD’s prophet) speaks
 - Do not fear! (19:6,7)

3. Answering Sennacherib – We do not submit
4. Sennacherib's reply?
 - I will destroy you!
 - Is the LORD greater than all the gods of the nations I've conquered??

APPLICATION: Are we living in such a time?

B. In prayer before the LORD

1. Honest prayer (14)
2. Honorable prayer (15)
 - You are God
 - The gods of the nations are not gods (18)
3. Humble prayer
 - Save us
 - That God's glory may be revealed

NOTE: Hezekiah intercedes for the people and the glory of God. He serves as a type of Christ, who is the perfect intercessor for his covenant people. (Romans 8:34)

III. The Crown of Faith

A. The LORD hears (21-22)

1. Who did they scorn? The virgin daughter of Zion!
2. Who has given them their power and strength? The LORD!
3. They have mocked the Holy One of Israel (22)

B. The LORD delivers His people (33-34)

1. Jerusalem is delivered
 - Assyrian never entered Jerusalem (32b)
 - 185,000 were struck down (35)
2. For the sake of his Name!
 - The LORD defends his name!
3. For the sake of his servant David
 - This is the language of God's promise and salvation – i.e. For the sake of His chosen one, His Christ – and the kingdom of his redeemed

C. The promise is still being fulfilled

1. God did deliver his people in Jerusalem
 - But his promise was not completely fulfilled
 - They were certainly “delivered” for a time
2. Full and final deliverance still awaits us
 - The true heir of David had come
 - The perfect sacrifice for sins has been made
3. The true Israel is being gathered

D. God delivers His people today!

1. Our hope is in the living, risen God and King
2. Our privileges and blessings are greater than those of Hezekiah
 - In the Word, the Sacraments, and the Savior revealed