

Notes of YF message on 4 Oct 2025 –

“Christ in the Old Testament: Christ Who Defeats the Enemy!”

Text: 2 Kings 19:35-37    Memory Verse: Rev 19:15    Speaker: Rev Dr Jose Lagapa

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In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah, the city of Jerusalem was surrounded by the Assyrians. This occurred shortly after the Northern Kingdom of Israel had fallen into their hands in 722 BC. Why did God let the Northern Kingdom fall without defending them or fighting against the enemy for them, like He did with Judah? May this be a lesson that if you stray away from God, you will be chastised and disciplined so that you will be awakened, for He cares for you.

As king, Hezekiah “*did that which was right in the sight of the LORD*” (2 Kings 18:3), destroying the idols within the land and “*trusted in the LORD God of Israel*” (2 Kings 18:5). His heart was with God as seen through his actions and how he “*clave to the LORD*” (2 Kings 18:6). As such, when Jerusalem was under attack, he prayed to the Lord and asked Him for help. This was unlike Samaria which had been against God and was deep in idolatry. Do not expect help from God if you are a wayward Christian.

Christ can defeat the enemy, but you must make sure that His enemy is also your enemy, and that you are on the LORD’s side. Rabshakeh of Assyria made the bold and audacious claim that the LORD Himself would give Sennacherib the mandate to destroy Jerusalem, and that just as the gods of the Northern Kingdom and surrounding nations could not do anything against the Assyrians’ might, Hezekiah should just submit to him. But, Hezekiah, in response, went into the house of the LORD, and sought after God.

God sent His messenger, the prophet Isaiah, to speak to Hezekiah. He revealed that the enemy Assyria was not merely a personal enemy of Hezekiah, but that Assyria was against God and Christ Himself. Here we see that Christ will deliver and fight for those who go to Him, and seek for His help.

When you face opposition and persecution from the threat of the enemy, be like Hezekiah, who went into the house of the LORD and spread his problem before the LORD. Depend upon the LORD and ask for His help. One should not do nothing, nor look to self. Instead, kneel before Him and cry to Him to provide for all your needs. Indeed, as Hezekiah prayed, he declared that God is the “*living God*” (2 Kings 19:16), who “*has made heaven and earth*” (2 Kings 19:15). Do we have this same trust in God? Let us pray that God will deliver, not for our own safety or prosperity, but for the glory of God, as seen in how Hezekiah prayed: “*all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only*” (2 Kings 19:19). Remember: God will defeat His own enemies for His namesake. Although the Assyrians had an hundred fourscore and five thousand mighty men of valour, the people of Jerusalem did not need a single bow or sword to come out of the city of Jerusalem. Christ Himself destroyed the enemy, showing His almighty power.

Let us remember indeed, that “a mighty fortress is our God”, and just as He delivered the children of Israel from Egypt with the ten plagues, as well as Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War, He can deliver us today. Christ is not just God of the Old Testament. He is still our God today. As we desire to please Him, we will face persecution, but let us trust in Him.

Which side are you on? Will Christ defend and return for you, or will you be one of those whom God sees as an enemy? The end times are here. We do not have much time left. Our Christ, the Angel of the Lord, will defend His people, but make sure you are on His side. Make sure that His enemies are your enemies too.

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