

# PRAYING In The Bible

Prayer in the Bible: Hezekiah prayer

What makes this prayer great? This prayer is found in 2 Kings 19. I think this prayer is great because Hezekiah uses the template of Jesus. We come before the Lord humble. Then we ask for help and give thanks for all God will do. Yet, this prayer goes deeper. Hezekiah makes sure to be specific in all his words. You can only come to God this way. A way that puts God above any enemy. He is not asking for help but rather he is going to the one place that can help.

There is another side of this that we do not see in this prayer chapter. If we turn to the next chapter, you will read that Hezekiah gets sick. He is going to die. God grants him more life. Then right after this he falls from grace. Yet, there is a lesson here on prayer. This second request is for our own needs. It is not that we cannot ask for our needs. The better way is to trust in the Lord. Pray to lift God up in your heart. Pray for others. Then take what God gives and use it for good. Hezekiah took the extra life and boasted about his kingdom wealth to foreigners. Those foreigners eventually take the kingdom.

Ok, lets dig into the prayer found in 2 Kings 19:14-19. Hezekiah takes the trouble before the Lord. A foreign power is threatening the kingdom. He was given a letter from the enemy. This King takes that letter up to the house of God. Jesus asks us to lay our gift to God on the alter. Then we should go and forgive others first. The point is to sacrifice ourselves on the alter for others as Jesus did. Hezekiah takes the concern and sacrifices it. What it means is that he gives up his worry, fear, and ability to handle it, and sacrifices it on the alter. Moses was to give wave offerings. A gift to the Lord. This troubling letter was a gift to God.

Why do I say it was a gift? Why would I insinuate it is an offering on the alter? It is because of the next part of this prayer. Hezekiah gives his troubles fully to the Lord. He is also saying to God that his troubles are dead because God is bigger. The King could have torn his clothes or got down on his face and wept as he had before. Instead, He placed the trouble in the only place it could be resolved. He recognized the God alone can help him. In verse 15 it says *“You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.”* Only God can deal with the trouble.

I love it that Hezekiah then gives God human attributes. I think it is a taunt to the enemies. In verse 4 it says that the enemies have taunted them. Maybe God will hear and act on it. Also, Hezekiah tore his robes. Yet, the King now spreads out the letter and asks God to hear and act. This prayer is asking that no stone be unturned. That God would stop what He is doing and help them. It is bold but it is also honoring to the Lord. They want and need Gods full power and mercy to save them.

The rumors are that Sennacherib destroyed other Gods and idols by fire. It looks daunting. I do think there is some sort of fear. Then Hezekiah asks God to please save them. That He alone can do it. Yet, this prayer makes the enemy human. They destroyed idols. God, you can destroy them. They destroy by fire. God can fix this anyway He wants. Notice that Hezekiah does not tell God how to do it. He does not give promises. His eyes are fixed on God alone. This is very much how Jesus prays.

It is so important that we acknowledge that God is more powerful than our trouble. I feel that we must put ourselves aside. It is ok to say you are afraid. Yet, God should wipe away fear and worry. God is bigger than the bogey-man. Our eyes need to be on what God will do as opposed to what we think He should do. This pray elevates God and lowers the enemy. Make our

troubles, idols, and fears wooden idols that fire destroy. Everything in this prayer puts God above it all. The rulers of heaven and earth.

Ok, let us go back to the second prayer in chapter 20. Verse 3 says *“Please, Lord, just remember how I have walked before You wholeheartedly and in truth, and have done what is good in Your sight!”* Remember what I have done. The focus is on his fear. Then Hezekiah asks what will be the sign of healing? There is a lack of faith in this request. What is missing? There is no thank you to God or an elevation of the Lord above the trouble. Instead, it is a plea that is answered favorably. Yet, this prayer is not blessed. There was no fruit from the Lord.

We must be careful when we pray. The description of the Lion Aslan in the Narnia books is accurate. He is he safe? “Course He isn’t safe but He is good!” God is dangerous. We are sinners and sin perish in holiness. Yet, God is loving and good towards those who love Him. We can ask for help. Yet, sometimes God will allow trials just to see if we respond and grow. Trails are not safe. Yet, if we call on God to guide us through, then they are safe. How? Because God is more powerful and merciful than trouble is. That is why we should always put God before our troubles and before our own needs.