

## **Where is God when trouble and storms come our way?**

**October 2, 2016**

**A couple of weeks ago, Leroy and I took our camper to Camden Hills State Park to enjoy a few days of relaxation before the end of summer. We had refinished our bathtub and due to the fumes from the epoxy paint and the fact that it needed to be 75 degrees temperature, we decided to apply the paint, then leave for a few days so we would not be affected by the fumes and high temperature needed to set the paint.**

**On Tuesday night, I mentioned to Leroy that I thought we should take a ride back to Waterville on Wednesday to put a final coat of paint on the bathtub and to take care of some household items and return to Camden on Wednesday night to finish out the week staying in our camper. He agreed so we came home on Wednesday around noontime. We had not been home long when there was a knock at the door and a friend stopped by to ask us to pray for some serious issues that affected his family. I told him that we had not planned on coming home that day and it was surprising that he came shortly after we arrived home. He said that early that morning he told his wife that he felt impressed to come to our house at noon on his lunchbreak to ask us to pray with him about the issues that were burdening down the family. She told him that he should call to see if we were going to be home and he replied, "I feel strongly enough about it that I just know they will be there". I found that to be most interesting since it was a last minute decision on our part to come home and we had been home less than a half hour when the gentleman showed up. I know that there are people who do not think that God has concerns about our everyday life, but how often do things happen that we consider coincidental (just happened to be in a certain place at the right time) when it is actually God's timing and intervening in a situation that concerns his children? We spent some time talking to him about the problems that his family was facing and we prayed together knowing that it was God's doings that we connected to share another's burdens and to offer prayer and thanksgiving unto the Lord who has our interest at heart.**

**In 2 Kings Chapter 18, we are introduced to King Hezekiah, son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign over Jerusalem. He was 25 years old when he was appointed king and he reigned for 29 years over Jerusalem. It is interesting to note that his mother is named also in this chapter; she was Abi the daughter of Zachariah. Hezekiah was one who obeyed the word of the Lord and he did what was right in the sight of the LORD and followed the example of King David before him. He removed the high places and tore down the images and cut down the groves that were connected to idol worship. He also broke the bronze image into pieces because the Jews now worshipped that which Moses had placed on a pole to bring healing to the people. God commanded Moses to place the serpent on a pole after the people had**

sinned and whoever looked upon the serpent was healed, but in this chapter now the people burned incense to the serpent and it had become an idol to them so Hezekiah destroyed it. This king trusted in the LORD God of Israel in a way that no king before him had and there was no king that came after him that was like him. He clung to the LORD and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments which were given to Moses. God's blessing was upon him. He prospered wherever he went and he rebelled against the king of Syria and refused to serve him. He was a victorious warrior and God gave him victory over God's enemies. In due time, Syria planned to go to war against Hezekiah and the Assyrian king sent word to the people of Jerusalem that Assyria was able to overthrow them. He told them not to let Hezekiah deceive them into thinking that his God was able to fight the Assyrians for them for the Assyrian army was strong and they would be defeated. In verses 29 & 30, the king warned the people not to believe Hezekiah when he told them to trust in the LORD for God would surely deliver them from the Assyrians. This king boasted that the city would be overthrown and they would be taken into captivity. The Jews were reminded of all the nations that had been overthrown by the Assyrians and Jerusalem would be as one of them.

In verse 36, the people did not answer the servant of the king but held their peace for Hezekiah had commanded them not to answer the threat. When Hezekiah heard what had been told to the Jews, he rent his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of the LORD. He called others to agree with him that God would have mercy and protect them from the threat that Assyria's king had spoken by his servant.

Isaiah, the prophet spoke to the king and said, "Thus says the LORD, be not afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. I will send a blast upon him and you shall hear a rumor for he shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land." (This came to pass after the angel of the LORD smote the Assyrian army and the messenger, Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, returned home and entered the house of Nisroch, to worship his god, His two sons pierced him with a sword and he died in the land of Nineveh)

Again the king of Assyria sent a message in a letter to Hezekiah, "Let not thy God in whom you trust deceive you saying that Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.

Behold you have heard what Assyria has done to other nations by destroying them utterly and shall you be delivered? Other gods have not delivered these people and why will you be any different?"

When Hezekiah received the letter from the messenger, he read it. Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD and spread the letter before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed before

the LORD and said these words, "I LORD God of Israel which dwells between the cherubims, you are the God, even you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. LORD, bow down your ear and hear; open LORD thine eyes and see: hear the words of Sennacherib which had sent him to reproach the living God. It is true, LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands, and have casts their gods into a fire for they were not gods but images made by the work of man's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed. Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech you, save us out of his hand and all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you are the LORD God, even you only."

The LORD spoke through the prophet Isaiah promising to deliver Jerusalem from the Assyrians. In verse 34, God promised to defend Jerusalem and to save it for his own sake and for David's sake.

The Bible says that very night the angel of the LORD went out and smote in the camp of the Assyrians and killed thousands of them. God fought the battle for the Israelites and they didn't have to enter into the battle for God delivered them from the Assyrians.

Psalms 25 King David penned these words, "Unto you, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in you: let me not be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on you be ashamed."

We may not know the future, but we can be sure that God has everything under his control. In Hebrews 4:16 we are told that because we have a high priest, Christ Jesus, who can be touched by our infirmities; who was tempted in all points as we are tempted, that we can come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. We are encouraged to bring our troubles to the Lord and give them to him. He is a prayer answering God who has pity on his children. Psalms 103:13 says that as a father pities his children, so the LROD pities them that fear him.

We don't have to worry about tomorrow or the evil that surround us for the Bible says that when the enemy comes in like a flood the spirit of the LORD will rise up a standard against him. We are being bombarded on all sides with evil and God's people are being persecuted for standing up for what is holy and right. God will intervene for us; I don't know how or when, but he will fight for us who trust in him just as he did in the days of the Old Testament prophets. The Bible says that when we have done all we can do to stand, then stand and see the glory of the LORD. Just as Jesus came into this world as spiritual darkness was overcoming his people, God will help and strengthen those who stand for what is right and holy in his sight. Let us not grow weary in well doing for in due season we will reap if we don't faint. Galatians 6:9

**In America today, Satan's agents are attacking our Christian principles, our Bible, our faith in God, our nation, our churches and communities. Marriage is being mocked and our innocent babies are being slaughtered. Christians are being punished for standing up for godly principles. Businesses are being prosecuted for refusing to bend to the demands of government pressure to set aside personal convictions and follow the trends of unrighteousness. Schools that refuse to allow children to use bathrooms and showers of their gender choice are being punished by the government by withholding much needed funds for education. There are school teachers that have left their careers because of the sex education classes that have stripped our children of innocence. The moral fibers of our society are being stripped away layer by layer and that which has been held sacred is mocked.**

**Sin has a high price tag and those who are deceived and who call good evil and evil good will cause much harm. Ecclesiastes 7:19, states that wisdom strengthens the wise more than ten mighty men in a city. In 9:18, it says that wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.**

**My prayer is that Christians throughout America will continue to fight the good fight of faith and push back the evil that is penetrating our society. May God help us to be strong and faithful regardless of the cost.**