

Sermon Notes 03.22.20 Pastor Jason: The Voice of Perfect Peace

We are going to find out what is inside of us during a season like this.

God will show Himself strong on our behalf and He will show Himself strong through His church.

Do you believe this? What is the wrestle you are feeling between your faith and fear right now?

Corrie ten Boom “Worry doesn’t empty tomorrow of its sorrows, it empties today of its strength.”

Are you seeing that strength being emptied from those around you? From yourself?

These are extraordinary times but we have an extraordinary God

Matthew 13:33 NIV ³³ He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds^[a] of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

Romans 14:17 NIV Romans 15:13 NIV ¹³

How can we actually overflow with hope during this season?

WE have to make the choice to trust Him. That requires faith. Like trusting that our brakes will work when we push the pedal. Trust in Him WILL bring hope, joy, peace...

We need to remember that everything we are facing now is temporary

John 14:27 ²⁷ **Peace** I leave with you; my **peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

We don’t always have the choice of circumstances but we do have a choice of who we will listen to in our circumstances.

The Old Testament is a physical representation of a spiritual battle. The enemy always uses the same tactics, still today.

Don’t give into fear. This is your moment to have God establish His kingdom, His character,

His faithfulness in you.

I am confident in God, our people, our staff and the future. This is not a time to fear.



This is the time to hope. This is the time to believe. This is the time to respond.



We are going to experience repercussions due to this virus. The world is trembling.

Church, we have a choice.

The kingdom of God starts small, but increases

The kingdom of God's influence begins inwardly

The kingdom of God may be invisible but its effects can be seen

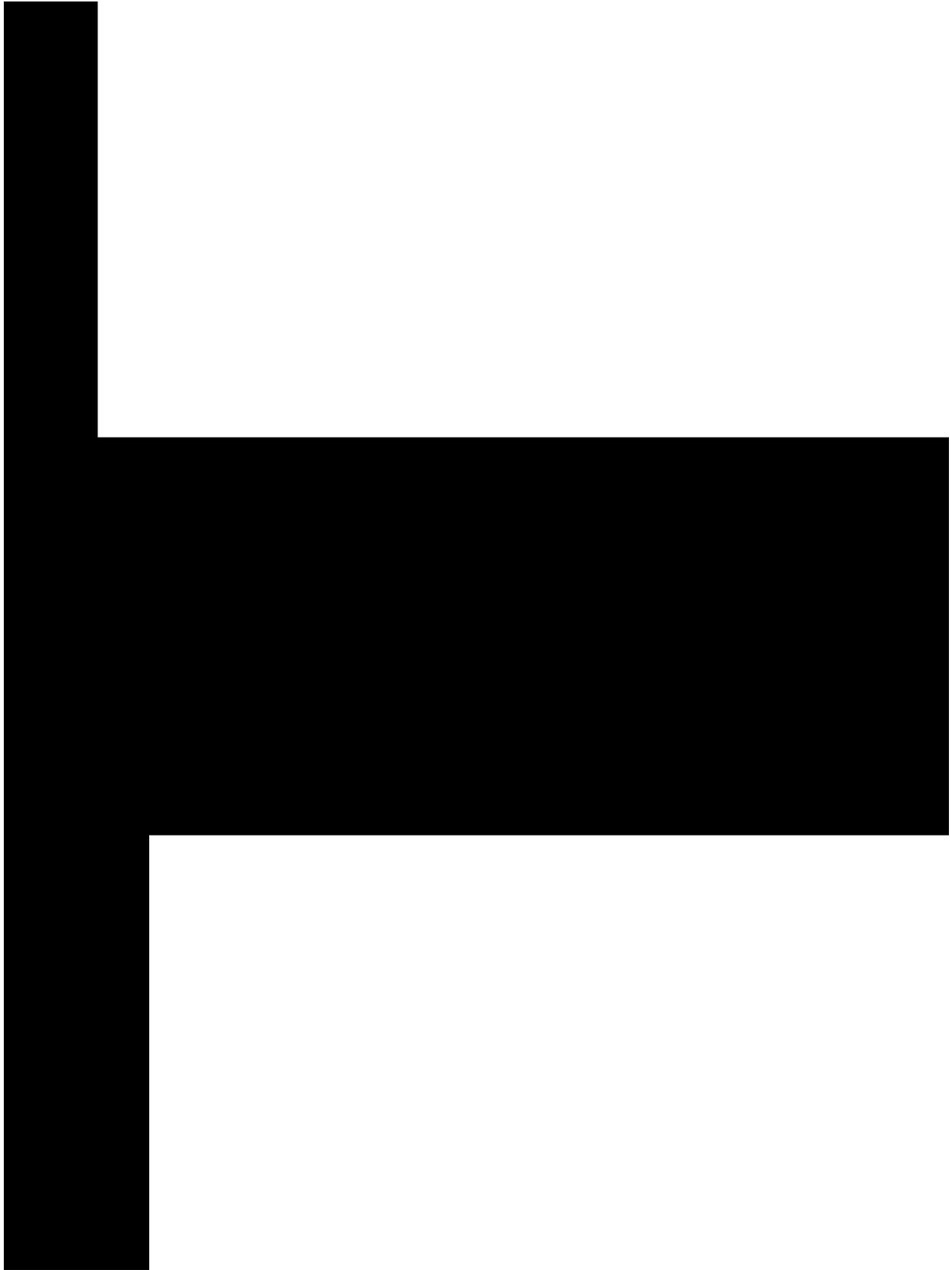
The effect of the kingdom of God will be all encompassing.

and joy in the Holy Spirit,

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, **peace**

May the God of **hope** fill you with all **joy** and **peace** as you trust in him, so that you may

overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Isaiah 36-37: Story of King Hezekiah in Jerusalem

King Sennacherib of Assyria- He had conquered Syria, Israel and almost all of Judah except for the capital Jerusalem. God had prophesied through Isaiah this would happen

This verse reminds us that this is the time when the voice of fear shows up: when we are overwhelmed!

There are always voices speaking to us. The Enemy never lets up. We have to learn the language of fear, recognize it, and make the choice to listen to truth and tell the Enemy to be quiet.

King Sennacherib sends General Rabshakeh and more than 185,000 soldiers against Jerusalem. King Hezekiah sends three people to hear the demands of the Assyrian king.

Read Isaiah 36:4-21 King Sennacherib is questioning everything they have put their faith in, telling them they can not trust their King, nor their God.

Do you hear the voice of fear trying to infiltrate? Do you see what the King's words did to them in verse 22?

1. Rabshakeh: Fear questions your confidence and hope V4-5

- - "Where are you getting your confidence? Do you think your words can actually substitute for military might?"
- - We all know we are supposed to have our confidence in God, in His faithfulness, in His goodness, in His strength, In Jesus
- - The Enemy always comes to question what we trust or have put our faith in, what we know: Do you really think your praying or what you are saying has any power to change anything? Do you really believe your words are going to change anything?
- - He tries to make us powerless and make us believe that we have lost our confidence and hope

2. Rabshakeh: Fear mocks your support V 6

- - "A're you not giving in because you think you have help? Is it Egypt? You know they are weak. They are weak reed, easily broken. You think they are goig to come to your defense?"
- - **Have you ever had a plan B and it fall through?**
- - **How many would say you have looked to something other than God for the SOURCE of your help instead**

of God?

- - **Then all of a sudden, they let you down. They grow distant. Or you find out they weren't much help**

after all.

- - **Have you ever heard this thought: no one is going to be able to help you?**
- - **The enemy wants you to feel isolated! He wants to divide and conquer**

3. Rabshakeh: Fear questions your worship V 7

- - “Maybe you will say we are trusting in the Lord. Maybe God is mad at you because you haven’t worshiped correctly or done it the way He wants.”
- - **Fear creates confusion**
- - **Have you ever been obedient to what you believed God asked you to do and then you experience**

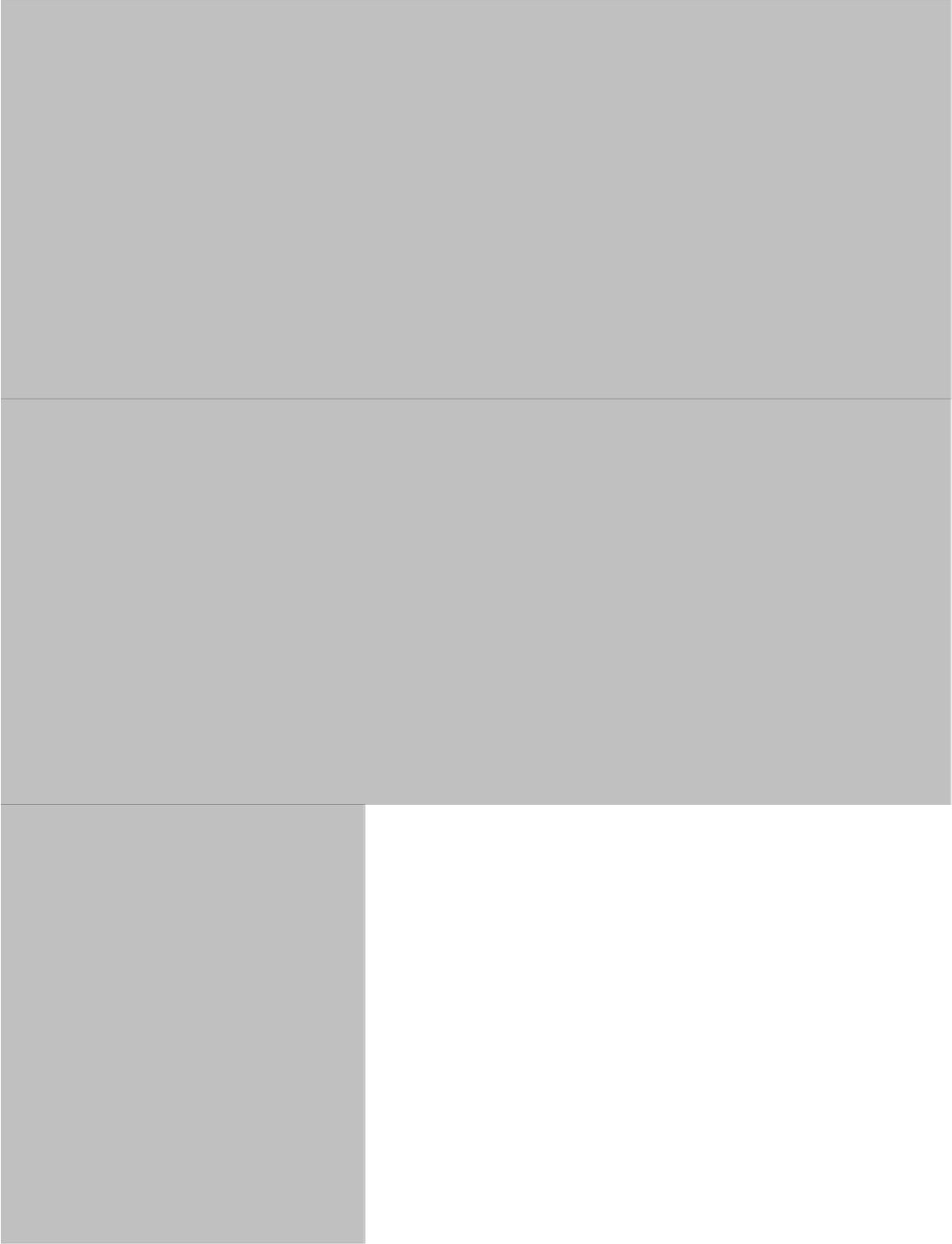
opposition? And you start second guessing or doubt?

- - The enemy will tell you that God wants to destroy you for what you have done or haven’t done.
- - You begin questioning: Maybe God is holding something against me. Maybe I haven’t prayed enough.

Maybe I am praying wrong. Maybe God is bringing something from my past against me.

- - He makes you doubt and say: I know I asked for forgiveness but maybe it is too big.
- - Maybe I have grieved Holy Spirit and God has abandoned me.





- If the enemy can make you think you have not done enough, it will cause you to remove your eyes from Jesus.

4. Rabshakeh: Fear mocks your strength V 8-9

- - “Let’s make a deal. Let’s try to make this fight even. I will give you 2000 horses if you can find men to put on them. Your army is so pathetic and small, even if you give your best, you can’t win.”
- - **Have you ever heard a voice like that? Maybe it is the whole of your life?**
- - The enemy is now trying to humiliate, to belittle you.
- - **The enemy mocks you: That is what you are going to do? Go ahead. What is it going to matter anyway?**

Look at your life, look at what you are up against

- - **Has the enemy ever tried to belittle you about where you come from or what you have to offer? Have you ever felt like what is the point? I will lose anyway**
- - **Have you ever felt like the enemy was mocking your strength, your faith, your ability, your prayers, your identity? Have you ever felt like it doesn’t even matter now what I do because it won’t make a difference?**
- - **The root of that is fear. He is trying to rob you of everything.**

5. Rabshakeh: Fear twists the truth V 10

- - “You know, it is the Lord that sent us to attack you. What if the Lord told us to attack you, because He did. Are you going to disobey the Lord?”
- - **Have you ever been confused and wondering if the tragedy or sickness or the betrayal or the job loss is from God?**
- - **There is a difference between what He allows and what He actually sends to us.**
- - God can use anything to mature us, even the bad things.
- - God will use circumstances to get our attention and focus (this season).
- - But God is for you not against you
- - **If you think this is God’s intention or His will, how can you approach God or pray against it?**

6. Rabshakeh: Fear uses language you are familiar with V 11

- - “Eliakim, one of the servants of King Hezekiah and Jerusalem, asks the general to speak in a different language so it won’t scare the people of Jerusalem”
- - How many of you know satan knows your triggers? He knows the language to use to discourage you and make you fearful
- - **The language of the enemy will always be something you are familiar with**

- - **If you become fearful., it will affect others around you. How have you seen this in your life?**
- - There may be an element of truth in the enemy's words to you, but it doesn't make it truthful
- - For fear to have an effect, there has to be a possibility even if it is remote. That is what the enemy uses





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against us.

7. Rabshakeh: Fear will threaten the ones you love V 12

- - “Do you think this message is just for you and your king? Is it not for those around you who will suffer and will have to eat their own dung and drink their own urine.”
- - **Have you ever been in a situation where you felt forced into making a decision but you were afraid that if you stood your ground, it would affect your family or those you loved?**
- - Maybe one of your biggest fears is letting down or hurting those you love.
- - **Do I trust God or take the path of least resistance?**
- - What if it hurts my kids? My spouse? My family? The people I love?
- - You know in your heart God is saying, “Don’t give in. Don’t back down. Stand your ground...”
- - But you are concerned how it will affect the people around you.
- - The enemy knows this

8. Rabshakeh: Fear will scream destruction V 13-15

- - “Then this general/envoy screamed at the people of Jerusalem,” Don’t let your king fool you. He will NEVER be able to rescue you and don’t let him fool you into trusting in the Lord. This city will fall.”
- - Fear gets loud in our ears. You may hear it from every direction.
- - There are patterns and family history, ways I was used to of how things always happen in my life that I had

to get away from.

- - **Do you have those videos in your mind of how it has always gone, how it always turns out, that you need to turn off and make the hard choice of Trusting God over listening to the fear?**
- - **Have you ever felt like you made a mistake in trusting God? Wondering if you just made the biggest mistake of your life all in the name of following and trusting God?**
- - **Have you ever felt like you have given God your best and it is still not enough? That the enemy is going**

to win anyway? Sickness and loss is going to win anyway

- - That standing for righteousness is a waste?
- - Have you ever felt like you are going to lose no matter what you do?

This is a Master's course in fear, in psychological warfare.

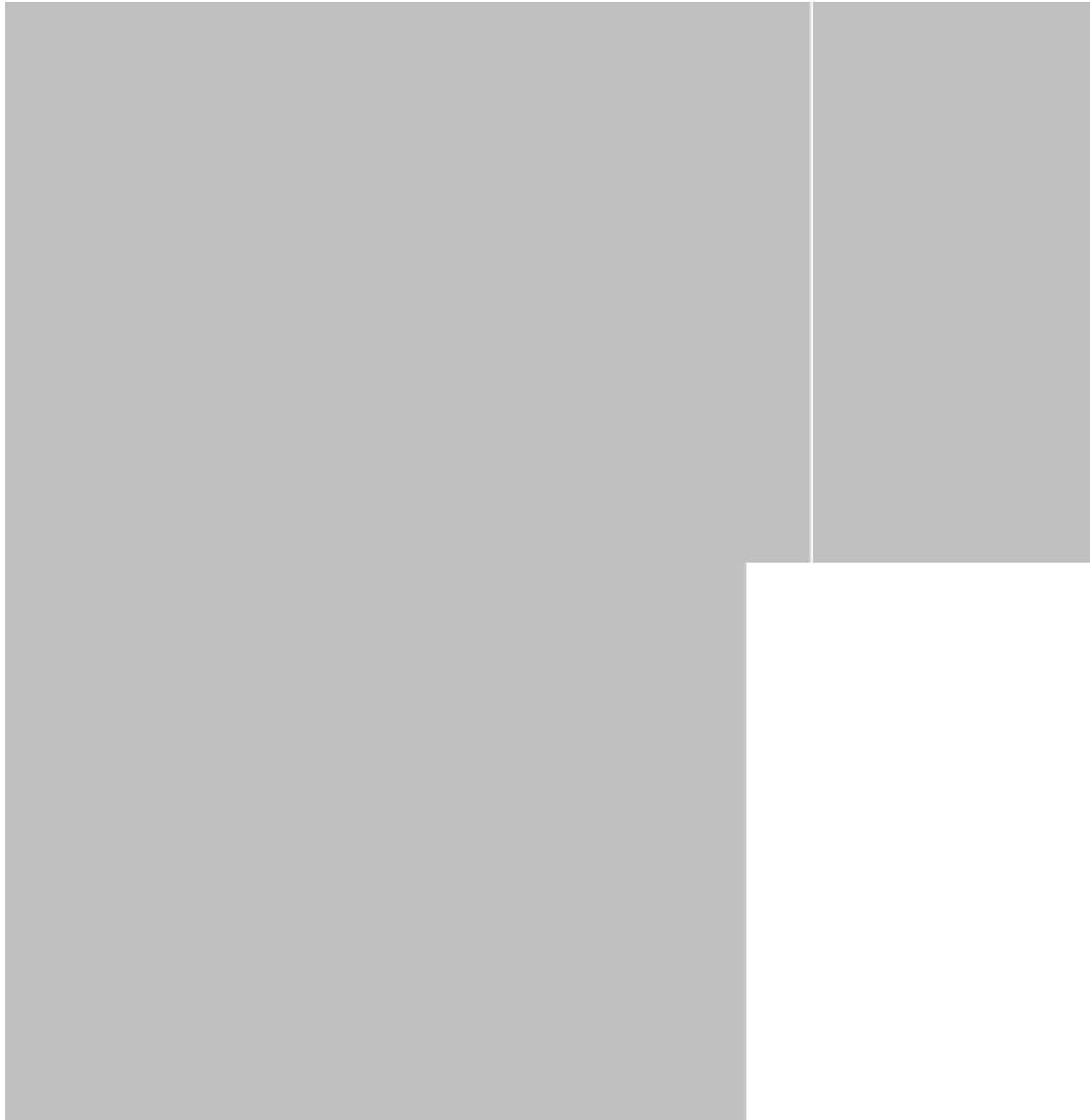
This is still how the enemy still operates today.

In the diagnosis. With the job loss. With the unclear future. In a pandemic.

Who you are listening to will determine what you see, what you do and what you will believe. This is a season of being spiritually established.

9. Rabshakeh: Fear wants to make peace through compromise V 16-17





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“Don’t listen to your king. Make peace with us.”

If you just give in, things will be easier.

They were told they could have vineyards, fig trees and their own well to drink from. **Have you ever felt the desire, a voice saying:**

Do you really think Jesus is going to save you? Really?
What is the point fighting and resisting so hard?
Just give in and you can have what your heart desires.
Make peace with your enemy. Make peace with your sin. Make peace and give up. Look at your life. Look at your circumstances. Look at where you are.

If you give up it will be better.

Is this not the language of sin? Of fear: Just give in. You don't need to fight. You don't need to stand.

What makes you think God will intervene in your situation? Be honest with yourself.

All of this is not about you. It is against God and you can trace it back to the garden. The enemy wants you to think it is all about us.

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10. Rabshakeh: Fear tries to undercut God V 18-21

- - 36:20 "What god has been able to save them from my power? What makes you think that the Lord can rescue Jerusalem from me?"
- - **Isn't this how the enemy still operates?**
- - Fear creates a picture: It feeds off of potential realities that may never come to pass
- - That picture taps into emotions.
- - Those emotions begin to drive your thoughts
- - Those thoughts begin to determine your actions
- - **The essence of faith is to believe God is who He says He is, He will do what He says He**

will do and you choose to believe it.

- - The Lord is at hand, be anxious for nothing
- - **V21:21**"

Ch 37

- - Hezekiah tears his robes in grief and compares this moment to a mother who must give birth but does not have strength to follow through

- - He sends Eliakim to Isaiah to ask for hope and prayer- especially hoping God would punish Sennacherib
- - Isaiah responds that God had told him the king will be called from the field and ambushed at home and

killed.

- - **The Assyrian King challenges them not to believe: V 10-11** ¹⁰“Say to Hezekiah king of Judah: Do not let

the god you depend on deceive you when he says, ‘Jerusalem will not be given into the hands of the king of Assyria.’ ¹¹ Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries, destroying them completely. And will you be delivered?”

- - **Have you ever received a word from the Lord through scripture or a prophetic word you needed to hear about your situation and then almost immediately the enemy reminds you of what could happen?**
- - **Remember, this is about how the enemy works So what do we do?**

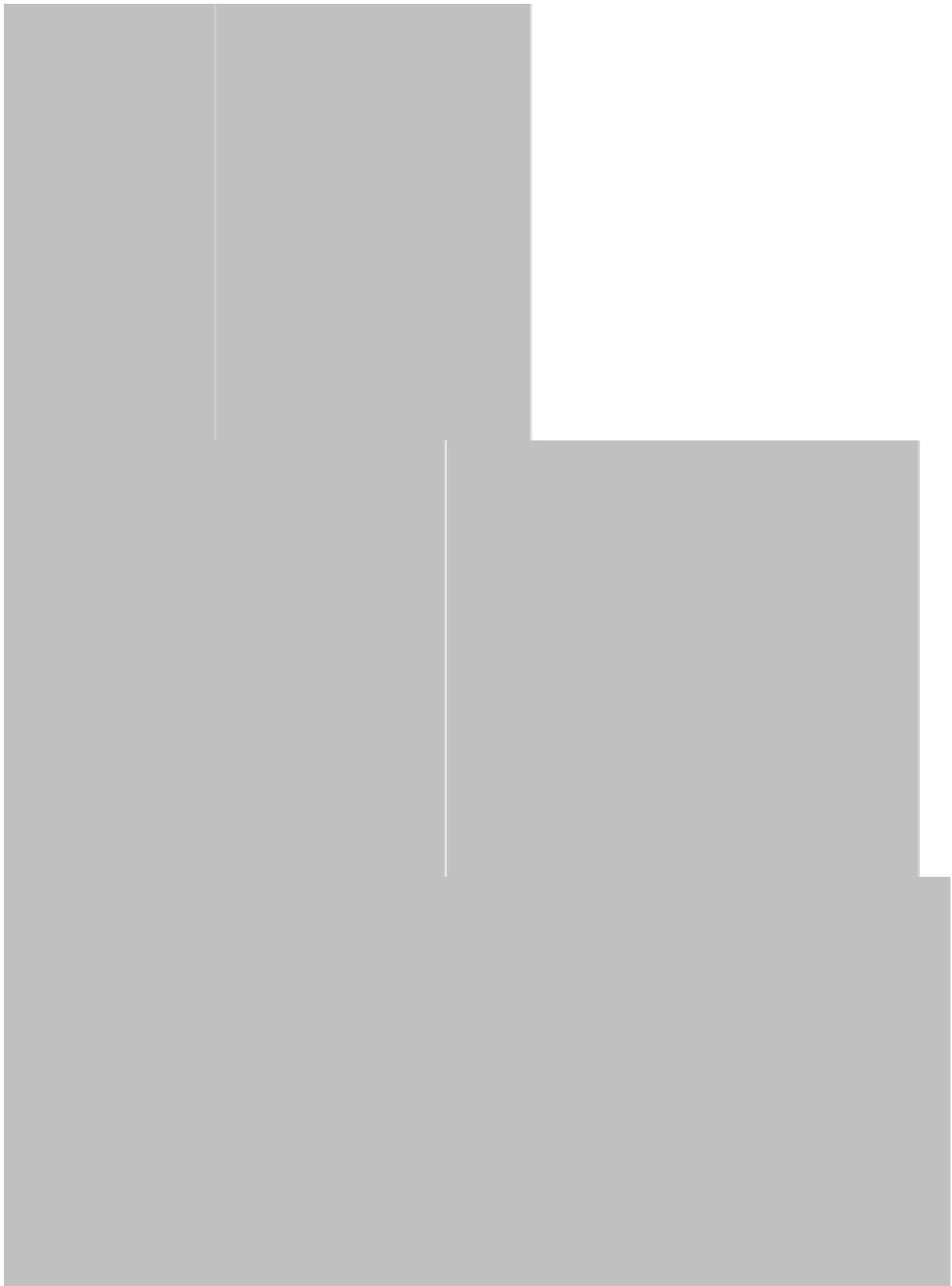
Hezekiah had one response

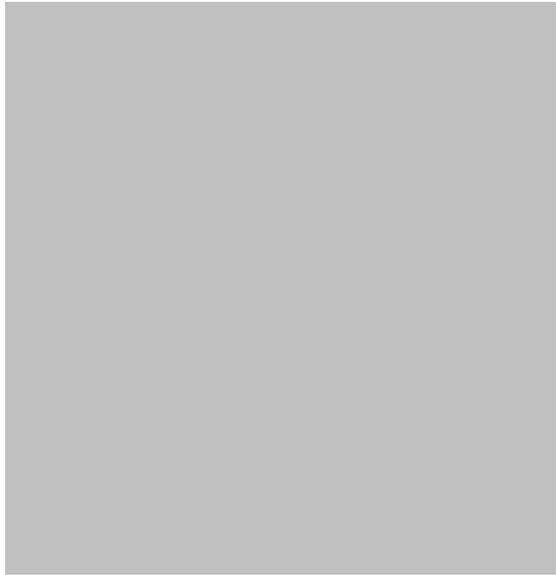
- Hezekiah went to God’s house and spread the letter from the Assyrian King out on the floor and prayed: ¹⁶“Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all

the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. ¹⁷ Give ear, Lord, and hear; open your eyes, Lord, and see; listen to all the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God.

¹⁸“It is true, Lord, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste all these peoples and their lands. ¹⁹ They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands. ²⁰ Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, Lord, are the only God.^[b]”

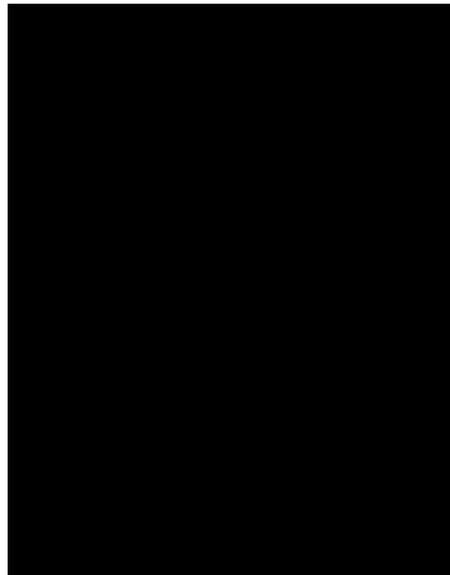
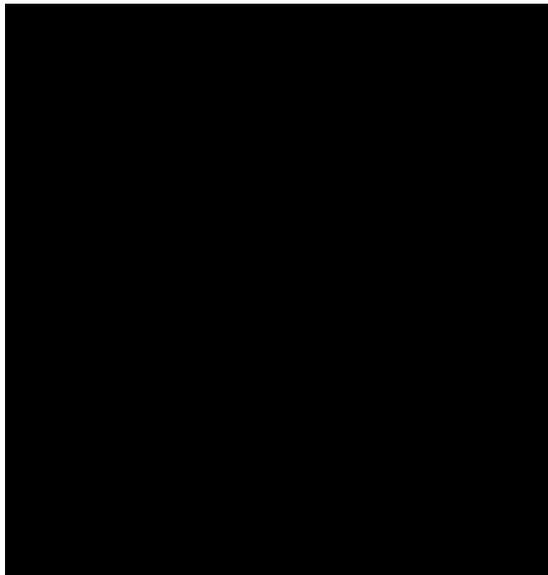
- - **Hezekiah FIRST acknowledged the truth of Who God is.**
- - **Then he acknowledged the truth of the situation.**
- - **Then He RETURNED to the Truth of Who God is and asked in confident hope for Him to move.**
- - **Continue reading Chapter 37 and see what God did to the lying enemy of His people.**





But the people remained silent and said nothing in reply, because the king had commanded, “Do

not answer him.”



- What are you afraid of? -

Romans 16:20 NKJV ²⁰ And the **God of peace** will **crush Satan under your feet** shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

He will walk you through whatever you need to walk through A physical reminder, a positioning...

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- - **Are we allowing God to establish Himself on the inside, because then we will be established on the outside?**
- - **It may take us 10x a day to remind ourselves, to keep fighting to believe.**

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV) *3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.*

Go to the website and copy the document or print it out. Let's acknowledge our fears and then respond

to the lies of the enemy with the TRUTH of who God is, what we know of Him in His word.

Put it on your desk or even on floor in a tangible response to Romans 16:20 (above) and pray it.

Speak it. Remember it.

HE will crush your enemy under your feet.

Remind yourself and the enemy that God will come thru. He will meet us in our fear.