

## A Letter from the Devil

**2 Kings 19:14-16** And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. <sup>15</sup> And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth. <sup>16</sup> LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent him to reproach the living God.

This is the story of how King Hezekiah received a letter from the DEVIL. True, it was signed by Sennacherib, but it was sent directly from hell! Sennacherib means "man of sin" and he represents Satan, the god of this world, who is determined to strike fear in the hearts of God's people.

Jerusalem was under siege by the mighty Assyrian army during the time this satanic letter arrived. King Sennacherib and his soldiers had carried the ten tribes of Israel into captivity, because they had come under God's judgment for their immorality, idolatry and apostasy. The Bible says that Israel "sold themselves to do evil" (2 Kings 17:17).

In this passage, Israel represents the backslidden, sin-saturated, harlot Church of today. It was full of compromise, lust, adultery, and sheer pleasure-madness. And just as it is today, the Israelites possessed a form of godliness without power (2 Timothy 3:5). The devil has no need to seduce or write threatening letters to such a bunch. You see, he already controls this segment of "Christians" and has placed his very own "angels of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14) in the pulpits. He has entrusted to them a lukewarm religion – just enough tradition to make them feel good combined with a great deal of wickedness.

The devil's FOCUS stays on those precious ones who've set their hearts wholly on loving and pleasing the Lord Jesus! In this story, the nation of Judah represents the Lord's remnant Church here on earth. She is the target of Satan because she is under covenant with the Lord and therefore poses a tremendous threat to the kingdom of darkness.

**2 Kings 18:3-7** And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did. <sup>4</sup> He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan. <sup>5</sup> He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him. <sup>6</sup> For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses. <sup>7</sup> And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.

Hezekiah, the king of Judah, was a godly man. That is why the "man of sin" was out to destroy him, and it is the very same reason Satan will attack you. Up to this time, Judah was a servant nation to Assyria and had to pay tribute, and that's exactly how Sennacherib wanted to keep it!

As long as these people paid tribute to the enemy they remained unmolested. They had no opposition, no war. But watch what happened when Hezekiah stepped out in faith toward God ... when he decided there would be no more appeasing the devil, no more halfway discipleship, no more compromise or worldly ties, regardless of the cost!

The moment you give up on the world and put your life wholly in the hands of the Lord, watch out! All hell will come against you. You will become a target of the devil and will come under siege from the "man of sin." You will be tested to see if you really will trust God in all things. Everywhere you look you will see the enemy against you. The devil will parade his army around your walls and you will feel like a prisoner.

The first trick of the "man of sin" is to question your commitment to fully trust the Lord. Rab-shakeh was the king's ambassador, and his name means "drunken envoy." He mocks the godly with his taunt.

**2 Kings 18:19-20** And Rabshakeh said unto them, Speak ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, What confidence is this wherein thou trustest? <sup>20</sup> Thou sayest, (but they are but vain words,) I have counsel and strength for the war. Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me?

Has the devil ever told you that God is not going to rescue you? Have you ever heard the devil laugh at you? Has he ever threatened you? Or ... has he ever told you that GOD is the one behind all your problems?

**2 Kings 18:25** Am I now come up without the LORD against this place to destroy it? The LORD said to me, Go up against this land, and destroy it.

This is the devil's slickest lie. He makes you believe God has forsaken you and that all your problems are the result of God's punishment for your past sins. But it's not true! You are simply under attack and are being barraged by the enemy's lies because you've set your heart to truly trust in the Lord. Satan is trying to destroy your faith in God.

Satan will also try to defeat you by focusing your attention on his victories over other Christians.

**2 Kings 18:33** Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered at all his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?

Another of Satan's tricks is to paint a fantastic picture of what your life could be like if you make a deal with him:

**2 Kings 18:31-32** Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me, and then eat ye every man of his own vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his cistern: <sup>32</sup> Until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of oil olive and of honey, that ye may live, and not die: and hearken not unto Hezekiah, when he persuadeth you, saying, The LORD will deliver us.

Rabshakeh told them that captivity wouldn't be all that bad ("a land like your own land"). "You can take your God with you!" But it's a lie!

Finally, as a last resort, the enemy will send you a threatening letter!

**2 Kings 19:14** And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord.

Have you received your own letter from the devil? Divorce papers. Pink slip. Lawyer's letter. X-ray. What do you do with a threat like that?

**Take the letter to the Lord!** Why? Because a letter to one of God's children is a letter to God Himself! ("You sent that letter to ME!") And God takes that personally because you are the apple of His eye.

Saints, no matter how many demons invade, no matter how the kingdom of darkness threatens, the Church is safe. Let it sink deep into your heart of hearts: You are safe. The Lord is ready to defend and deliver you! You see, it only takes one angel to destroy an entire army of demons:

**2 Kings 19:35** And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

**Psalms 34:7** The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

The Lord has sent His own letter to the devil! (Psalm 46) It is so powerful that all hell's demons shudder in fear when they hear it!

"Attention Man of Sin" ... (read Psalm 46) ...