

**LET  
GOD  
ARISE!**

*The Battle Belongs to the Lord  
Prayer Guide #6*

*Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis*



**Hezekiah and the Assyrians**

Isaiah 37.32-35

**Hail, Christus Victor!**

*Don L. Davis*

From heav'ns great heights, the Son came down and joined himself to us  
Immanuel, the Word made flesh, to prove the Father's love  
That ancient foe of hate and rage, the dragon, Christ put down  
The devil's works destroyed, disarmed, and now, Christ wears the crown.

The Fall's dread Curse, that damning fate, is conquered and no more  
For Christus Victor's ransomed all, creation he'll restore.  
The yawning depths of blackest Hell must yield to his command  
For now the keys of Hell and Death he holds within his hand.

And Death, that final enemy, will soon now lose its sting  
For Jesus rose to life again, and reigns above, as King.  
Ascended high to God's right hand, he reigns triumphantly  
And angels, dazzled by the sight, bow down to Majesty.

In glory bright he sits above, in prayer to intercede  
As our High Priest before our God, now for his own to plead.  
And one bright day God's sacred oath in truth shall be fulfilled  
And heav'n and earth will be renewed, according to God's will.

From heav'n's high realm Christ did descend, redemption for to win  
And now exalted at God's side, he takes his place again.  
Hail, Christus Victor! Risen Lord! In splendor, now You reign!  
Heav'ns fullest blessing, won by love, now follows in your train!

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### **Rabshakeh blasphemes the Lord and intimidates God's people**

Isa. 36.1-20 - In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. [2] And the king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem, with a great army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. [3] And there came out to him Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder.

[4] And the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours? [5] Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom do you now trust, that you have rebelled against me? [6] Behold, you are trusting in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him. [7] But if you say to me, "We trust in the Lord our God," is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, "You shall worship before this altar"? [8] Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them. [9] How then can you repulse a single captain among the least of my master's servants, when you trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? [10] Moreover, is it without the Lord that I have come up against this land to destroy it? The Lord said to me, Go up against this land and destroy it.'"

[11] Then Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it. Do not speak to us in the language of Judah within the hearing of the people who are on the wall." [12] But the Rabshakeh said, "Has my master sent me to speak these words to your master and to you, and not to the men sitting on the wall, who are doomed with you to eat their own dung and drink their own urine?"

[13] Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah: "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! [14] Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be



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able to deliver you. [15] Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord by saying, “The Lord will surely deliver us. This city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.” [16] Do not listen to Hezekiah. For thus says the king of Assyria: Make your peace with me and come out to me. Then each one of you will eat of his own vine, and each one of his own fig tree, and each one of you will drink the water of his own cistern, [17] until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. [18] Beware lest Hezekiah mislead you by saying, “The Lord will deliver us.” Has any of the gods of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? [19] Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? [20] Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?”

### **Hezekiah prays to God for deliverance**

Isa. 37.14-20 - Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord. [15] And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord: [16] “O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. [17] Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God. [18] Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands, [19] and have cast their gods into the fire. For they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed. [20] So now, O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone are the Lord.”

### **God promises judgment to the blasphemy of the king of Assyria in answer to the prayer of Hezekiah**

Isa. 37.29-35 - “Because you have raged against me and your complacency has come to my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your



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mouth, and I will turn you back on the way by which you came.’ [30] And this shall be the sign for you: this year you shall eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs from that. Then in the third year sow and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. [31] And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward. [32] For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. [33] Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it. [34] By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the Lord. [35] For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.”

### **God’s judgment upon Sennacherib and his army**

Isa. 37.36-38 - And the angel of the Lord went out and struck down a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. [37] Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home and lived at Nineveh. [38] And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him down with the sword. And after they escaped into the land of Ararat, Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

### **God’s commitment to defend his holy people and holy city**

2 Kings 20.6 - and I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city for my own sake and for my servant David's sake.

Isa. 31.5 - Like birds hovering, so the Lord of hosts will protect Jerusalem; he will protect and deliver it; he will spare and rescue it.



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Isa. 38.6 - I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria, and will defend this city.

2 Kings 19.34 - For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.

2 Chron. 32.22 - So the Lord saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all his enemies, and he provided for them on every side.

Isa. 10.24 - Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts: “O my people, who dwell in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrians when they strike with the rod and lift up their staff against you as the Egyptians did.”

### **God delivers for the sake of his own name and glory**

Deut. 32.18-26 - You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth. [19] “The Lord saw it and spurned them, because of the provocation of his sons and his daughters. [20] And he said, ‘I will hide my face from them; I will see what their end will be, For they are a perverse generation, children in whom is no faithfulness. [21] They have made me jealous with what is no god; they have provoked me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are no people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation. [22] For a fire is kindled by my anger, and it burns to the depths of Sheol, devours the earth and its increase, and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains. [23] And I will heap disasters upon them; I will spend my arrows on them; [24] they shall be wasted with hunger, and devoured by plague and poisonous pestilence; I will send the teeth of beasts against them, with the venom of things that crawl in the dust. [25] Outdoors the sword shall bereave, and indoors terror, for young man and woman alike, the nursing child with the man of gray hairs. [26] I would have said, “I will cut them to pieces; I will wipe them from human memory,” [27] had I not feared provocation by the



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enemy, lest their adversaries should misunderstand, lest they should say, “Our hand is triumphant, it was not the Lord who did all this.”

Isa. 43.25 - I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Isa. 48.9-12 - For my name’s sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off. [10] Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. [11] For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another. [12] “Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! I am he; I am the first, and I am the last.”

Ezek. 36.22 - Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.

Eph. 1.6 - to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Eph. 1.14 - who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

### **God’s deliverance comes for his own name’s sake**

1 Sam. 12.22 - For the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.

Ps. 25.11 - For your name’s sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

Ps. 79.9 - Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name’s sake!



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Ps. 106.8 - Yet he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make known his mighty power.

Ps 143.11 - For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

Jer. 14.7 - Though our iniquities testify against us, act, O Lord, for your name's sake; for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against you.

Ezek. 20.9 - But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt.

Ezek. 20.14 - But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out.

Ezek. 20.22 - But I withheld my hand and acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out.

Dan. 9.17-19 - Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. [18] O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. [19] O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name.



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### **God's judgment falls upon those who proudly boast against him**

Exod. 12.23 - For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

Isa. 10.12 - When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, he will punish the speech of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the boastful look in his eyes.

Isa. 30.30-33 - And the Lord will cause his majestic voice to be heard and the descending blow of his arm to be seen, in furious anger and a flame of devouring fire, with a cloudburst and storm and hailstones. [31] The Assyrians will be terror-stricken at the voice of the Lord, when he strikes with his rod. [32] And every stroke of the appointed staff that the Lord lays on them will be to the sound of tambourines and lyres. Battling with brandished arm, he will fight with them. [33] For a burning place has long been prepared; indeed, for the king it is made ready, its pyre made deep and wide, with fire and wood in abundance; the breath of the Lord, like a stream of sulfur, kindles it.

Isa. 31.8 - And the Assyrian shall fall by a sword, not of man; and a sword, not of man, shall devour him; and he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be put to forced labor.

Isa. 33.10-12 - "Now I will arise," says the Lord, "now I will lift myself up; now I will be exalted. [11] You conceive chaff; you give birth to stubble; your breath is a fire that will consume you. [12] And the peoples will be as if burned to lime, like thorns cut down, that are burned in the fire."

### **God defends his people**

Ps. 48.1-8 - Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, [2] beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth,



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Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. [3] Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress. [4] For behold, the kings assembled; they came on together. [5] As soon as they saw it, they were astounded; they were in panic; they took to flight. [6] Trembling took hold of them there, anguish as of a woman in labor. [7] By the east wind you shattered the ships of Tarshish. [8] As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God, which God will establish forever. Selah

Ps. 89.1-7 - I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. [2] For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.” [3] You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: [4] ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’” Selah [5] Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! [6] For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord? Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord, [7] a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him?

Rev. 15.3-4 - And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! [4] Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

**God saves his people in order that his fame might be known among the nations and in the earth**

1 Sam. 17.45-47 - Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.



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[46] This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, [47] and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand."

1 Kings 8.43 - hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.

1 Kings 18.36-37 - And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. [37] Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back."

Ps. 46.10 - "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Ps. 59.13 - consume them in wrath; consume them till they are no more, that they may know that God rules over Jacob to the ends of the earth. Selah

Ps. 67.1-2 - May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah [2] that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

Ps. 83.17-18 - Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever; let them perish in disgrace, [18] that they may know that you alone, whose name is the Lord, are the Most High over all the earth.



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Isa. 42.8 - I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

Ezek. 36.23 - And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.

Mal. 1.11 - For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.

### **God's victory in Christ brings glory to his name**

1 John 3.8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Phil. 2.5-11 - Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, [8] he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. [9] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 13.31-32 When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. [32] If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once."



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John 16.14-15 - He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. [15] All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 17.1 - When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you.”

1 Pet. 1.18-21 - knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, [19] but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. [20] He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, [21] who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

### **Trust God for deliverance and help**

Ps. 121.1-8 - I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? [2] My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. [3] He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. [4] Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. [5] The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. [6] The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. [7] The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. [8] The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Eph. 6.12-13 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. [13] Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.



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1 Pet. 5.8-9 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. [9] Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Ps. 120.1 - In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me.

Ps. 123.1 - To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

Jer. 3.23 - Truly the hills are a delusion, the orgies on the mountains. Truly in the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel.

1 Cor. 10.13 - No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. ■

DOES EVIL intimidate you? Are you being bullied by the arrogance of the enemies of God? Have you ever been overwhelmed by the sheer appearance of evil, of temptation, of the enemy, of the world?

Without a doubt, to live in the world today as a follower of Jesus Christ is to encounter struggle, persecution, and trouble on every side. This, of course, is true in spite of the new evangelical teachers who promise health and wealth to all who trust in God, and the amazing popularity of the faith-healers and televangelists who name and claim blessings for their followers. There can be no mistaking the plain, simple teaching of the holy Scriptures: the ones desiring to live godly in Christ will experience trouble. Notice a small sampling of the teaching of Christ and the apostles on this fact:



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*2 Tim. 3.12 - Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*

*Matt. 5.10-12 - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

*Matt. 10.24-25 - A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. [25] It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.*

*John 15.19-21 - "If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. [20] Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. [21] But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me."*

*John 16.33 - "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

*Acts 14.22 - strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.*

*1 Pet. 4.12-13 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening*



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*to you. [13] But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.*

Hezekiah's confrontation with the powerful Assyrian army and their king Sennacherib is dramatically narrated in Isaiah 36-37. This boastful king taunted the people of God in Jerusalem, and sought to lay siege laden with blasphemous boasts against the Lord. On hearing the taunts and boasts, king Hezekiah prayed humbly and openly for help to the Lord. Asking Isaiah to seek the LORD on behalf of Israel, the prophet delivered three words to king Hezekiah. First, do not be afraid, for the king of Assyria is doomed (37.5-20), next, do not fear for the boastful Sennacherib who has arisen will fall to ruin (37.21-29), and finally, neither the arrows or army will enter the holy city for I, the LORD, will deliver it for my name's sake (37.30-35). For the sake of his covenant faithfulness and the glory of his name, the boastful enemies of God would be destroyed. With the death of 185,000 Assyrians, the humbled and defeated Sennacherib returned home only to be assassinated by his own sons. What a dramatic portrayal of God's ability to provide the victory to his people who trust him, even though they are both weak and vulnerable!

This amazingly powerful story clearly reveals both the motive and effect of God's victory over his enemies. For the sake of his name and to prove his covenant faithfulness, the Lord God promises to defeat his people's enemies, to overthrow the powers, those ancient foes of humankind and the universe.

As we remember Jesus' ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit during our Church Year observances, let us too acknowledge that through the shed blood of Jesus on the Cross God has defeated humankind's mortal enemies—sin, death, hell, the curse, the devil, and the powers. Because of Jesus of Nazareth, we now can experience God's victory in the midst of this fallen world. Jesus is the One who came into the world as humble babe but who rose victoriously as Champion and Victor, who defeated the powers



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through his incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension. The same tortured, ancient battle that our God has been waging since the voluntary rebellion of the first human pair in the Garden has been overcome in the Son. Not only has Assyria been defeated, but all the powers of hell and death, for God has won the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15.57).

Regardless of how intimidating evil may appear, how hopeless situations may feel, or how pathetic the conditions of life may look, God has won the victory. This victory, which God supplies to his people, is never because of their own strength, righteousness, and wisdom. Rather, for the sake of his name and in light of his covenant truth, God stands on our behalf, sends the word of comfort through the prophet, commands his angels to intervene on behalf of his people, and wins the day in the nick of time. Calendar time (*chronos*) is forever changed, for God has delivered us in this moment, time of truth (*kairos*).

In a real sense, the story of Hezekiah and the Assyrians has been played out in the lives of God's people through the ages. Appearing weak, helpless, and easy prey for evil, the people of God stand humble before the Lord, counting on his love and strength to intervene and transform the situation. As our loving and gracious Father, and now because of the work of Jesus Christ, God can act on behalf of his church and his creation and be righteous.

This story of deliverance is good news for us today. Don't you experience situations beyond your control and power, beyond your strength and wisdom, greater than your planning and ability? Haven't you felt hopeless in the face of evil and its effect in your life? Doesn't the task of completing the Great Commission appear impossible to fulfill in our generation? Doesn't the dark, foreboding city seem unwinnable with so many millions lost to God's grace, in the wake of such a small number of laborers working among them? If we are honest, we must answer "Yes." Truly, we are small,



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helpless, and weak—but, praise God, we have never been and we are not now alone.

The reason we challenge believers to pray day by day, week by week, and month by month is that our God is God, and he will not abandon his people. Like his miraculous intervention on behalf of Hezekiah which led to the defeat the Assyrians, so our God still intervenes for his own today. He will not abandon his people, nor fail to fulfill his promise. As surely as we both pray and work, so the cities of this world will certainly be filled with the knowledge of the Lord even as the waters cover the sea, and nothing and no power can prevent this (Isa. 11.9; Hab. 2.14). The Word of God, which cannot be broken, has promised it, and the zeal of our God will accomplish it.

Let us, therefore, come boldly to the throne of grace this month, and petition the God who hears to give us strength, grace, and help in order that we might persevere in the struggle for the lost until the victory is won. Unreached neighborhoods can yet be filled with the knowledge of Christ, hurting families can be transformed by his love, and his people can be edified in the darkest places on earth purely because our God continues to defeat his enemies through the victory of his Son. Our prayers for the cities and for the lost activate his great hand on their behalf. No matter how long and hard the fight, it is always too soon to quit, to early to turn around.

God continues to act on behalf on his people to defeat his enemies as they pray in faith to him. Seek the face of God for the lost, for he still answers our supplications in Jesus' name!

“Hail, Christus Victor, risen Lord! In splendor now you reign; heav'n's fullest blessing, won by love, no follows in your train!” ■



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### **Biblical Principle of the Month**

During this Season of Eastertide, with its observance of the Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, let us affirm without doubting the grace and strength of God available to us in the name of the risen and ascended Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. Now exalted and glorified at the Father's right hand, he walks with his people in the midst of their trial, and supplies them with grace and help as they testify of his victory throughout the earth. Regardless of how intimidating the enemy may appear, nothing and no one can thwart the coming of the reign of God in the earth. Let us claim this victory and trust God to intervene to make the light of the Gospel plain to those languishing without Christ in the cities of the world. God is able to win the victory, regardless of the threat and the challenge, for he alone is Lord and God.

*John 16.33 - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*

*1 John 4.4 - Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*



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