



Old Testament 4

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Law/Gospel

Sin makes me proud. It causes me to avoid God because I think I am self-sufficient and don't need Him. **My heavenly Father is always ready to hear me and my cries for help, giving me His Son for my salvation.**

Bible Words

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16

Sing

We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever present help in need,
Praised by all the heav'nly host;
All He made His love enfold,
All creation He upholds.

*"We All Believe in One True God"
Lutheran Service Book 953*

Fun Facts

You can see an Assyrian relief showing Judah paying tribute to Sennacherib. Search "Lachish Relief" pictures online. Lachish was one of the other walled Judean cities that Sennacherib besieged (2 Kings 18:13-16).

Hezekiah Prays

2 Kings 18-19

Hezekiah inherited the throne of the Southern Kingdom of Judah from his father, Ahaz, when he was twenty-five years old.

A rare king, Hezekiah "did what was right in the eyes of the LORD" (2 Kings 18:3). He removed the high places, altars, and symbols used to worship idols, and reinstated worship of the true God in the temple. The people celebrated Passover again. Hezekiah kept the commandments of the Lord and "the LORD was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered" (2 Kings 18:7).

In the sixth year of Hezekiah's reign, the Northern Kingdom of Israel fell to King Sennacherib, and the Assyrians took Israel into captivity (722 BC). Hezekiah stood up to the Assyrians after this happened, but Sennacherib eventually besieged Jerusalem and many other walled cities in Judea (701 BC).

During the siege, Hezekiah called God's prophet Isaiah and they prayed to the Lord. Judah paid an enormous tribute to avoid exile, equivalent to around \$43 million today. When Sennacherib tried to capture Jerusalem anyway, the Lord sent an angel who killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in the middle of the night. Sennacherib retreated and did not return.

For the most part, Judean kings after Hezekiah did not follow the Lord. As a result, God allowed Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar, who had defeated the Assyrians, to besiege Jerusalem. After eighteen months, Jerusalem suffered a severe famine. Nebuchadnezzar's army breached the walls, burned the Lord's temple, and tore down the city walls. Six hundred years before Jesus' birth, the educated and wealthy people of Judah went to Babylon as prisoners of war.

God's prophets pointed the people to a new hope, a new king with an eternal kingdom. This promise was fulfilled when God sent His Son, Jesus, as our Savior. Jesus died on the cross to pay for the sins of the world. In His resurrection, Jesus defeated our enemies of sin, death, and the devil. He gives those who believe in Him forgiveness of sin and new life in the kingdom of God.

Prayer

Jesus, give us church leaders who trust You alone. Preserve us in true faith in You, our risen Savior and Lord. In Your name we pray. Amen.