

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

VOW AND PAY INTO THE LORD

PSALMS 76 & 2 KINGS 18:13-19:37 & ISAIAH 36-37

Text: Psalms 76:11

Psalm 76:11

¹¹ Vow, and pay unto the LORD your God: let all that be round about him bring presents unto him that ought to be feared.

Introduction:

In 701 BC God gave Judah a great victory over the Assyrians.

Judah was a small nation and Assyria was a mighty nation.

The events that led up to this Psalm are found in 2 Kings 18:13-19:37 and Isaiah 36-37.

Having defeated the most powerful nations in the region the Assyrians had become the greatest threat and most fear in the region.

In Hezekiah 14th year of Hezekiah's reign Sennacherib attacked Judah and demanded 300 talents of silver.

2 Kings 18:14-15

¹⁴ And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended; return from me: that which thou puttest on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. ¹⁵ And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house.

To add insult to injury Sennacherib sent his general Rabshaken to intimidate them and in his intimidation he asked Judah who they were going to turn to for help.

2 Kings 18:19-22

¹⁹ 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? ²⁰ 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? ²¹ Now, behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him. ²² But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath

said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?

2 Kings 18:24-25

²⁴ How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? 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.

Rabshaken reminded them that Egypt wouldn't help them and that they had turned their back on God and they couldn't even call on Him for help.

However Hezekiah turned to the Lord.

2 Kings 19:14-19

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.

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands, ¹⁸ 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 have destroyed them. ¹⁹ Now therefore, O LORD our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.

God heard and answered the prayer of Hezekiah.

Isaiah 37:33-37

³³ Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it. ³⁴ By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. ³⁵ For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

³⁶ Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. ³⁷ So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.

God smote in one night 185,000 Assyrians, and Sennacherib return to Nineveh, where he was kill by two of his sons while he was worshipping his god Nisroch.

Isaiah 37:38

³⁸ And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the

house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead.

God gave a great victory to Judah even when she didn't deserve it

God turned their desperate situation around and greatly blessed them.

So in this psalm the psalmist encourages them to dedicate themselves to God and to make vows unto Him.

Every believer should understand the joy of making solemn and sacred vows unto God.

God has been good to us.

God has forgiven us of our sins and made us one of his children when we should have been condemned.

Now we must understand the seriousness of making a vow to the Lord.

Note Ecclesiastes 5:1-5

Ecclesiastes 5:1-5

¹ Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. ² Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. ³ For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words. ⁴ When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. ⁵ Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

Now a vow is a promise made to God as an act of:

- Sincerity – Authenticate
- Worship – Show Appreciation
- Obedience – Shows Dedication

Looking closer at this passage note the vows the Psalmist encourages the people to make, and these are vows that we too should consider as well.

Note:

We should vow to:

Psalm 76:11

¹¹ Vow, and pay unto the LORD your God: let all that be round about him bring presents unto him that ought to be feared.

1. Resign or Submit – “Unto the Lord”
2. Relinquish or Sacrifice – “Bring Presents Unto Him”
3. Reverence – “That Ought to Be Feared”