

## Shutting down Rabshakeh

### 2 Kings 18: 1-7

"Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, *that* Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. And he did *what was* right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done. He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made..."

### 2 Kings 18: 1-7

"...He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him. For he held fast to the Lord: he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses. The Lord was with him; he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him."

### Ever noticed...

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- When you are following God and pleasing Him, someone seems to show up?

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- Someone who wants to discourage you...

### Ever noticed...

- When you are following God and pleasing Him, someone seems to show up?
- Someone who wants to discourage you...
- Someone who tries to tell you lies about God and what He will do...


### You got a Rabshakeh?

### You got a Rabshakeh?

- Hezekiah had to deal with one


**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- Hezekiah had to deal with one
- He had spent years trying to restore Judah to what God had given to His people
  - Spiritually
  - Culturally
  - Politically




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- He'd torn down the idols



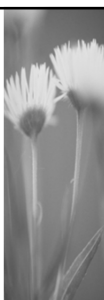
**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- He'd torn down the idols
- He'd shored up defenses



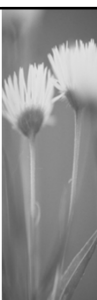
**You got a Rabshakeh?**

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- He'd led with integrity and honor




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- And someone noticed




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- He'd torn down the idols
- He'd shored up defenses
- He'd led with integrity and honor
- And someone noticed
- Someone was no longer having his way and getting what he wanted



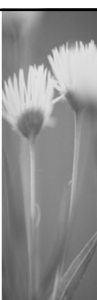
**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- Ever had that happen?




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- Ever had that happen?
- You do what you are supposed to do and instead of things getting easier, they get harder?



**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- Ever had that happen?
- You do what you are supposed to do and instead of things getting easier, they get harder?
- Ever been so caught up in being good that it catches you off guard when things go bad?



### You got a Rabshakeh?

- Sennacherib, the King of Assyria, wanted what Hezekiah had



### You got a Rabshakeh?

- Sennacherib, the King of Assyria, wanted what Hezekiah had
- He was used to getting what he wanted - and didn't care what he had to do to get it



### You got a Rabshakeh?

- Sennacherib, the King of Assyria, wanted what Hezekiah had
- He was used to getting what he wanted - and didn't care what he had to do to get it
- So, one by one, he picked off the cities of Judah, until only Jerusalem remained



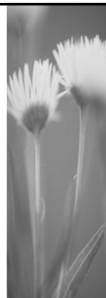
### You got a Rabshakeh?

- Hezekiah gave him all his personal wealth



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- Hezekiah gave him all his personal wealth
- Hezekiah even stripped the gold off the temple walls and gave it to Sennacherib to try to appease him



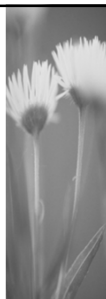
### You got a Rabshakeh?

- Hezekiah gave him all his personal wealth
- Hezekiah even stripped the gold off the temple walls and gave it to Sennacherib to try to appease him
- But he did not want to give up Jerusalem



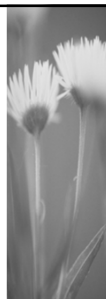
### You got a Rabshakeh?

- Ever spent time thinking over every little detail, wondering how it might have changed if you'd just done it differently?



### You got a Rabshakeh?

- Ever spent time thinking over every little detail, wondering how it might have changed if you'd just done it differently?
- Ever heard that voice in your head accusing you, belittling your faith, accusing God of being unable to help or protect or deliver or provide?



### You got a Rabshakeh?

- Sennacherib's little hit man



### You got a Rabshakeh?

- Sennacherib's little hit man
- Voice of the enemy
  - Mocking
  - Boastful
  - Challenging



### You got a Rabshakeh?

- Sennacherib's little hit man
- Voice of the enemy
  - Mocking
  - Boastful
  - Challenging
- "I'll get you, and your little dog, too!"



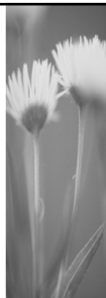
### You got a Rabshakeh?

- May as well give in



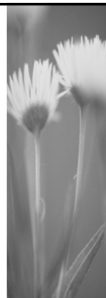
### You got a Rabshakeh?

- May as well give in
- Where were the other gods?



### You got a Rabshakeh?

- May as well give in
- Where were the other gods?
- Why do you think your outcome will be different?



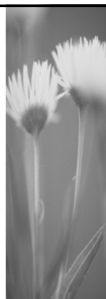
### You got a Rabshakeh?

- May as well give in
- Where were the other gods?
- Why do you think your outcome will be different?
- How can your God stand up against the power we have?



### 2 Kings 19: 3-4

"Thus says Hezekiah: 'This day is a day of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but *there is* no strength to bring them forth. It may be that the Lord your God will hear all the words of *the* Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the Lord your God has heard. Therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.'"



### You got a Rabshakeh?

- All this is possible, but there is no strength to bring it into being



### You got a Rabshakeh?

- All this is possible, but there is no strength to bring it into being
- There is nothing for Hezekiah to do except take his case to God



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- God, do you see what's happening?



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### You got a Rabshakeh?

- All this is possible, but there is no strength to bring it into being
- There is nothing for Hezekiah to do except take his case to God
- God, do you see what's happening?
- God, do you hear what's being said?
- God, do you know what they're doing?



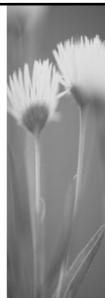
### You got a Rabshakeh?

"Thus says the Lord: "Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me. Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.""



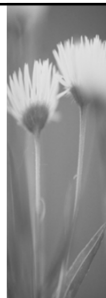
### You got a promise?

- Has God promised you something?



### You got a promise?

- Has God promised you something?
- Are you waiting for it to come to pass?



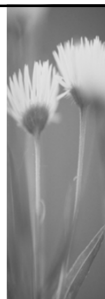
### You got a promise?

- Has God promised you something?
- Are you waiting for it to come to pass?
- Are you hearing a voice telling you it just isn't going to ever happen?



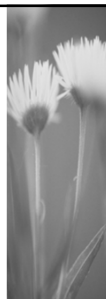
### You got a Rabshakeh?

"Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, "Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria." Look! You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by utterly destroying them; and shall you be delivered? Have the gods of the nations delivered those whom my fathers have destroyed...?"




### You got a Rabshakeh?

- Ah, here's the difference...




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

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- All gods are not created equal




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- All gods are not created equal
- The God we serve - the God of Abraham, Isaac and Joseph - the God who sent His son to die for us - is not created
- Our God - Hezekiah's God - is the Creator
- You're messing around with a different scenario this time, Rabshakeh




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

"Then Hezekiah prayed before the Lord, and said: "O Lord God of Israel, *the One who dwells between the cherubim*, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear; open Your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God. Truly, Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands—wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them..."




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

"Now therefore, O Lord our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord God, You alone."




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- Why do we ask God to save us?
  - Our personal needs
  - That His glory might be displayed to all those who need to see it




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- Why do we ask God to save us?
  - Our personal needs
  - That His glory might be displayed to all those who need to see it
- The bigger the challenge, the brighter the display of power and might




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

"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 shield, or build a siege mound against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return; and he shall not come into this city,' says the Lord. 'For I will defend this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'"




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- Your God said what?




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**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- Your God said what?
- Here - hold me up - I'm about to fall down laughing!
- This is Sennacherib - the King of Assyria - who defeats everyone who dares to resist him!
- Your God and what army?




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

"And it came to pass on a certain night that the Angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when *people* arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned *home*, and remained at Nineveh. Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the temple of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat."




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- Did you catch that?




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- Did you catch that?
- One angel vs. 185,000 warriors = problem solved for Hezekiah




**You got a Rabshakeh?**

- Did you catch that?
- One angel vs. 185,000 warriors = problem solved for Hezekiah
- One unholy, seemingly undefeatable Sennacherib vs. the words of our God = death at the hands of his own sons



**You gotta get rid of Rabshakeh!**

- You have to take your case to God as Hezekiah did and ask Him to defend you and prove to the world how strong He is



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**You gotta get rid of Rabshakeh!**

- You have to take your case to God as Hezekiah did and ask Him to defend you and prove to the world how strong He is
- You have to trust Him and quit doubting, fearing, appeasing
- One angel sent by God can solve all the problems - 185,000 of them



**So, what does this have to do with Mother's Day?**



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- Hezekiah's lament - children ready to be born, but no strength to bring them forth



**So, what does this have to do with Mother's Day?**

- Hezekiah's lament - children ready to be born, but no strength to bring them forth
- Motherhood can wear you out



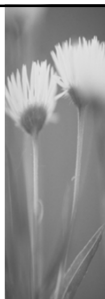
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- Motherhood requires diligent non-stop work



**So, what does this have to do with Mother's Day?**

- Hezekiah's lament - children ready to be born, but no strength to bring them forth
- Motherhood can wear you out
- Motherhood requires diligent non-stop work
- Motherhood is painful, exhausting, never-ending



**But it brings forth the glory of God**



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- When we take our motherhood situation to our God and ask for His glory to shine, He shows up





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- The battles may come, the pain may arrive, the struggle may be intense, but God will show up



### But it brings forth the glory of God

- When we take our motherhood situation to our God and ask for His glory to shine, He shows up
- There is no question - He shows up
- The battles may come, the pain may arrive, the struggle may be intense, but God will show up
- And He will be glorified



### Jesus knows the heart of a mother...

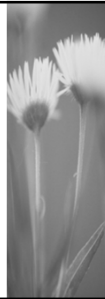
"Jerusalem...how often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing!"

- Matthew 23:37



### Jesus knows the heart of a mother...

- Be a willing mother



### Jesus knows the heart of a mother...

- Be a willing mother
- Be a mother than asks God to silence the voice of Rabshakeh



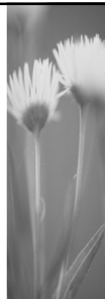
### Jesus knows the heart of a mother...

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### Jesus knows the heart of a mother...

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- Be a mother who chooses to trust God, regardless of the odds or the circumstances
- Be a mother who lets the glory of God shine as He helps you and your children safely reach the other side



### Jesus knows the heart of a mother...

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