

ASSYRIAN SPIRIT – LESSON 29. (ABC)

QUESTIONS

USING 2 KINGS 18 AND 2 CHRONICLES 29-31 DESCRIBE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A REFORMATION CHURCH/HEART OF A REFORMER.

DESCRIBE THE FEATURES OF A CHURCH UNDER AN ASSYRIAN ATTACK.

HOW DOES A CHURCH OVERCOME AN ASSYRIAN ATTACK.

ANSWERS – ASSYRIAN SPIRIT(LESSON 29 - ABC)

CHARACTERISTICS OF A REFORMATION CHURCH/HEART OF A REFORMER.

NOT CRAFTED BY THE ENVIRONMENT

2 Kings 18:3

And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.(NKJ)

Hezekiah came into power without any immediate role models. In the north Hoshea reigned. Under Hoshea's leadership the nation declined into idolatry, witchcraft and fire worship.

2 Kings 17:16-17

16 So they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

17 And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.(NKJ)

Furthermore, his father Ahaz also practised the same abominations as the king of Israel. His grandfather Jotham and his great grandfather Uzziah were also poor examples. His great grandfather was cut off from the temple because he violated spiritual authority.

Hezekiah did not follow the king of Israel or his family. He refused to be moulded by his environment. In the midst of apostasy, He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. This is one of the major characteristics of a reformer/reformation church – a refusal to be shaped by the environment. He bore no resemblance to his environment.

THEOCRATIC MENTALITY

2 Kings 18:3

And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.(NKJ)

The sight of God determined his actions. He lived under the knowledge of divine accountability. Neither the congregation nor the presbytery determined his actions. He was propelled by that which was right in God's eyes.

FOLLOWS AN ACCURATE PATTERN

2 Kings 18:3

And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.(NKJ)

He chooses David as his father and walks in his ways. He chooses David as his role model. He lived as it were in the kingdom of Ahaz and walked in the way of David. He had the wisdom to discern David as an accurate pattern.

Ecclesiastes 8:5

He who keeps his command will experience nothing harmful; and a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment, (NKJ)

DISMANTLES ILLEGITIMATE WORSHIP STRUCTURES

2 Kings 18:4

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; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.(NKJ)

Again we see that he is not motivated by political correctness but a passion for God. He destroys structures that stand in opposition to true worship. Early in his reign he shows his hatred for idols and false worship.

A reformer today will abolish illegitimate structures of worship e.g. use of incense, sign of the cross, mystic practices, strict dress code etc.

BREAKS SENTIMENTAL CONNECTION WITH THE PAST

2 Kings 18:4

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; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.(NKJ)

Nehushtan, was a powerful truth in the past. It was now an idol, a stumbling block to the nation of Israel. It had survived during the reign of many kings because it was sentimentally related to Moses. By destroying Nehushtan, Hezekiah demonstrated that he was governed by truth, not sentiment.

He refused to idolize a past move of God.

ACCURACY IN TRUST

2 Kings 18:5

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.(NKJ)

He did not put his trust in people, his position or his wealth.
He excelled in trusting God.

Psalm 20:7

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.(NKJ)

Psalm 25:2

O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me.
(NKJ)

Psalm 31:14

But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."(NKJ)

THIS IS THE WAY OF DAVID.

ACCURATE PASSION

2 Kings 18:6

For he held fast to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses.(NKJ)

He passionately clung to God. He followed God out of passion rather than duty. As king he had access to many opportunities to indulge himself, but he chose to follow God tenaciously.

OBEDIENCE

2 Kings 18:6

For he held fast to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses.(NKJ)

Obedience is a reformation lifestyle. He connected the charisma of David with the excellence of Moses. Thus in his life we see both the accuracy of David and Moses manifested.

NOT MISLED BY PROSPERITY

2 Kings 18:7

The LORD was with him; he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him(NKJ)

In his prosperity he did not turn against God. He used his prosperity to rebel against the enemy.

OPENS THE DOOR TO THE HOUSE OF GOD

Hezekiah opened the doors of the house of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 29:3

In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them.(NKJ)

Ahaz shut the doors of the house of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 28:24

So Ahaz gathered the articles of the house of God, cut in pieces the articles of the house of God, shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and made for himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem.(NKJ)

The Pharisees and Scribes shut people out of the kingdom of God.
Hypocrites shut people out.

Hophni and Phinehas also shut the door to God.

1 Samuel 2:12

Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD.(NKJ)

1 Samuel 2:17 Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD. (NKJ)

Reformers open the door – they bring people into the kingdom of God or into the purposes of God.

CLEANSSES THE HOUSE

2 Chr 29:5

and said to them: "Hear me, Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry out the rubbish from the holy place.
(NKJ)

A reformer's preoccupation is removing the rubbish from the house of God. He removes every man-made tradition, superstition and unbiblical practices from the house. He brings in God's operating system.

2 Chr 29:15-16

15 And they gathered their brethren, sanctified themselves, and went according to the commandment of the king, at the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD.

16 Then the priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD to cleanse it, and brought out all the debris that they found in the temple of the LORD to the court of the house of the LORD. And the Levites took it out and carried it to the Brook Kidron.
(NKJ)

2 Chr 29:19

"Moreover all the articles which King Ahaz in his reign had cast aside in his transgression we have prepared and sanctified; and there they are, before the altar of the LORD."(NKJ)

The articles of furniture were restored to the Holy Place viz. THE CANDLESTICK,

THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD AND THE GOLDEN ALTAR OF INCENSE.
This typifies what is restored in a true reformation process.

THE CANDLESTICK – APOSTLES’ DOCTRINE
THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD – FELLOWSHIP AND BREAKING OF BREAD
GOLDEN ALTAR OF INCENSE – PRAYER

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.(NKJ)

THE PRINCIPLE OF SACRIFICE

2 Chr 29:20-24

20 Then King Hezekiah rose early, gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the LORD.

21 And they brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats for a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary, and for Judah. Then he commanded the priests, the sons of Aaron, to offer them on the altar of the LORD.

22 So they killed the bulls, and the priests received the blood and sprinkled it on the altar. Likewise they killed the rams and sprinkled the blood on the altar. They also killed the lambs and sprinkled the blood on the altar.

23 Then they brought out the male goats for the sin offering before the king and the assembly, and they laid their hands on them.

24 And the priests killed them; and they presented their blood on the altar as a sin offering to make an atonement for all Israel, for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering be made for all Israel.(NKJ)

Under Hezekiah’s leadership, the legitimate altar of God was blood-stained. The nation was reminded about the principle of sacrifice. There can be no “straightening of the way of the Lord” without sacrifice.

The sin offering demanded one goat.

Lev 16:15

"Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat.(NKJ)

Hezekiah presented seven.

HE WAS PASSIONATE IN HIS SACRIFICE.

STIRS PASSION FOR WORSHIP

Hezekiah stirred up a culture of expressive worship after the order of David.

2 Chr 29:25-31

25 And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the LORD

by his prophets.

26 The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

27 Then Hezekiah commanded them to offer the burnt offering on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD also began, with the trumpets and with the instruments of David king of Israel.

28 So all the assembly worshiped, the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded; all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.

29 And when they had finished offering, the king and all who were present with him bowed and worshiped.

30 Moreover King Hezekiah and the leaders commanded the Levites to sing praise to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshiped.

31 Then Hezekiah answered and said, "Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the LORD, come near, and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD." So the assembly brought in sacrifices and thank offerings, and as many as were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings.(NKJ)

He stirred up instrumental worship(cymbals, stringed instruments, harps, trumpets), singing during the offerings and postural worship(bowing). This was done with gladness.

HEZEKIAH CALLED THIS CONSECRATION:-

"Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the LORD"(vs.31)

IT WAS NOT CONSECRATION UNTIL THIS PASSION WAS DEMONSTRATED.

STIRS PASSION FOR THE WORK

2 Chr 29:32-35

32 And the number of the burnt offerings which the assembly brought was seventy bulls, one hundred rams, and two hundred lambs; all these were for a burnt offering to the LORD.

33 The consecrated things were six hundred bulls and three thousand sheep.

34 But the priests were too few, so that they could not skin all the burnt offerings; therefore their brethren the Levites helped them until the work was ended and until the other priests had sanctified themselves, for the Levites were more diligent in sanctifying themselves than the priests.

35 Also the burnt offerings were in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings and with the drink offerings for every burnt offering. So the service of the house of the LORD was set in order.(NKJ)

Under the spirit of a reformer the lower order is activated into diligent service. Here we see an "overtaking spirit" come upon the Levites as they were now more diligent than the priests in their service.

Amos 9:13

"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.(NKJ)

RECOGNITION THAT GOD PREPARES THE PEOPLE.

2 Chr 29:36

Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced that God had prepared the people, since the events took place so suddenly.(NKJ)

A reformer recognises that reformation only takes place when God prepares the people. Thus a reformer does not take credit for what God has done through him. Both the people and the leader are divinely prepared.

Judg 5:2

"When leaders lead in Israel, when the people willingly offer themselves, bless the LORD!(NKJ)

The cooperation between leaders and the people is a divine enablement – thus we bless the Lord.

A RETURN TO FOUNDATION

2 Chr 30:1

And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel.(NKJ)

The Passover celebrated Israel's miraculous deliverance from Egypt. The Passover lamb was a picture of Christ. In celebrating the Passover Hezekiah reminded the nation of first things. He reminded the nation of her roots. A reformer will not neglect first things. To us the cross represents first things – it is foundational. Paul did not lose this emphasis.

Gal 6:14

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.(NKJ)

1 Cor 1:17

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.(NKJ)

1 Cor 2:2

For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
(NKJ)

RECOGNITION THAT THE ISSUE OF THE HEART IS GREATER THAN EXTERNAL SANCTIFICATION.

2 Chr 30:18-20

18 For a multitude of the people, many from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and

Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, "May the good LORD provide atonement for everyone

19 who prepares his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he is not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary."

20 And the LORD listened to Hezekiah and healed the people.(NKJ)

The Passover celebration required an external ritual of sanctification. The people were under the law. Hezekiah placed the preparation of the heart above the system of external rituals. He asked God to provide atonement for those who were not ritually prepared but their hearts were prepared, and God listened to him.

GOES BEYOND WHERE OTHERS HAVE STOPPED

2 Chr 30:23

Then the whole assembly agreed to keep the feast another seven days, and they kept it another seven days with gladness.(NKJ)

Under the influence of Hezekiah the duration of the passover celebration was extended for another seven days. Hezekiah inspired a passion in his people to go beyond the letter- beyond the demands of the law.

PERSONAL DEMONSTRATION OF COMMITMENT

INSPIRES TRANSFORMATION IN THE PEOPLE

2 Chr 31:1

Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah and broke the sacred pillars in pieces, cut down the wooden images, and threw down the high places and the altars-- from all Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh-- until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned to their own cities, every man to his possession.(NKJ)

The people migrated with their leader. Under his leadership the people changed. Under his leadership the people became autonomously godly – the people now did what was right in God’s eyes. His spirit was transferred to the people.

2 Chr 31:3

The king also appointed a portion of his possessions for the burnt offerings: for the morning and evening burnt offerings, the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths and the New Moons and the set feasts, as it is written in the Law of the LORD.

Hezekiah led by example. He led in the example of giving.

INSPIRES LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

2 Chr 31:4-5

4 Moreover he commanded the people who dwelt in Jerusalem to contribute support for the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the Law of the

LORD.

5 As soon as the commandment was circulated, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of grain and wine, oil and honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything.(NKJ)

Hezekiah secured leadership support. For continuity of ministry unto the Lord there needs to be “full-time” workers who can attend to God’s work without financial distraction.

PURITY OF MOTIVE

2 Chr 31:20-21

20 Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and true before the LORD his God.

21 And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart. So he prospered.(NKJ)

Finally the issue of his heart is mentioned. Hezekiah did it with all his heart.

John 4:23

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.(NKJ)

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ASSYRIAN ATTACK

FOLLOWS DEEDS OF FAITHFULNESS

2 Chr 32:1

After these deeds of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and entered Judah; he encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them over to himself.(NKJ)

The Assyrian attack followed deeds of accurate reformation. Up to this point there was nothing wrong with Hezekiah’s walk. This attack was more than Jezebel, Absalom or Korah and follows any leader who wants to embrace reformation.

UNPRODUCTIVITY

II Ki 18:13

And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.(NKJ)

Judah was besieged and captured by Assyria. No one could come in and no one could go out. The growth of the church stops and apostolic ministry (sending ministry) comes to an end. The church is boxed in.

POVERTY

II Ki 18:14-15

14 Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I

have done wrong; turn away from me; whatever you impose on me I will pay." And the king of Assyria assessed Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

15 So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house.(NKJ)

Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the Lord. The Assyrian attack comes to deplete the reformation house of its finances.

The Assyrian spirit comes to devour your finances.

II Ki 15:19-20

19 Pul king of Assyria came against the land; and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to strengthen the kingdom under his control.

20 And Menahem exacted the money from Israel, from all the very wealthy, from each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and did not stay there in the land.(NKJ)

II Ki 16:7-9

7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. Come up and save me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who rise up against me."

8 And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasuries of the king's house, and sent it as a present to the king of Assyria.

9 So the king of Assyria heeded him; for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and took it, carried its people captive to Kir, and killed Rezin.(NKJ)

2 Chr 28:20-22

20 Also Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came to him and distressed him, and did not assist him.

21 For Ahaz took part of the treasures from the house of the LORD, from the house of the king, and from the leaders, and he gave it to the king of Assyria; but he did not help him.

22 Now in the time of his distress King Ahaz became increasingly unfaithful to the LORD. This is that King Ahaz.(NKJ)

DISFIGUREMENT

II Ki 18:16

At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.(NKJ)

The doors and the pillars were stripped off the gold to meet the demands of the Assyrian.

The doors are the evangelists, the pillars the tithe payers. Both these categories of believers are affected by an Assyrian attack.

SUPPRESSION OF REVELATION

II Ki 18:17

Then the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rabsaris, and the Rabshakeh from Lachish, with a great army against Jerusalem, to King Hezekiah. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they had come up, they went and stood by the aqueduct from the upper pool, which was on the highway to the Fuller's Field.(NKJ)

Water is a symbol of the Word of God. The Assyrians positioned themselves at the aqueduct, to cut off the water supply.

However Hezekiah stopped the water supply out of fear for the Assyrian. A reformation church under an Assyrian attack will experience a depletion of revelation.

2 Chr 32:2-4

2 And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come, and that his purpose was to make war against Jerusalem,

3 he consulted with his leaders and commanders to stop the water from the springs which were outside the city; and they helped him.

4 Thus many people gathered together who stopped all the springs and the brook that ran through the land, saying, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?"(NKJ)

UNDERMINING OF CONFIDENCE

II Ki 18:19

Then the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say now to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: "What confidence is this in which you trust?"(NKJ)

A reformation house exudes with confidence. There is clear understanding that God has not given us a spirit of timidity. Under an Assyrian attack this boldness is eroded.

DELUSION OF A "GOD ATTACK"

II Ki 18:25

"Have 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.(NKJ)

The Assyrian claimed apostolic authority. Because this attack follows deeds of faithfulness, the church may labour under the misconception that God is attacking the church.

SPIRIT OF FEAR IN THE ELDERSHIP

II Ki 18:26

Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it; and do not speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people who are on the wall."(NKJ)

UNDERMINING THE SET MAN

II Ki 18:29-31

29 "Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he shall not be able to

deliver you from his hand;

30 'nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, "The LORD will surely deliver us; this city shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria."

31 "Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: 'Make peace with me by a present and come out to me; and every one of you eat from his own vine and every one from his own fig tree, and every one of you drink the waters of his own cistern;
(NKJ)

The set man was supposed to bring prosperity and protection to the house. As the benefits of reformation are not seen immediately, the set man is undermined by the Assyrian.

A SPIRIT OF SEDUCTION THAT DESTROYS COVENANT

II Ki 18:31-32

31 "Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: 'Make peace with me by a present and come out to me; and every one of you eat from his own vine and every one from his own fig tree, and every one of you drink the waters of his own cistern;

32 'until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive groves and honey, that you may live and not die. But do not listen to Hezekiah, lest he persuade you, saying, "The LORD will deliver us."(NKJ)

The Assyrian spirit seduces the congregation with the promise of prosperity in another land(church).

11. THE THREAT OF MISCARRIAGE OF VISION

II Ki 19:3

And they said to him, "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.(NKJ)

The Assyrian comes to abort the purposes of God.

DEFEATING THE ASSYRIAN SPIRIT

1. THROUGH THE VOICE OF THE LORD

Isa 30:30-33

30 The LORD will cause His glorious voice to be heard, and show the descent of His arm, with the indignation of His anger and the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, tempest, and hailstones.

31 For through the voice of the LORD Assyria will be beaten down, as He strikes with the rod.

32 And in every place where the staff of punishment passes, which the LORD lays on him, it will be with tambourines and harps; and in battles of brandishing He will fight with it.

33 For Tophet was established of old, yes, for the king it is prepared. He has made it

deep and large; its pyre is fire with much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, kindles it.(NKJ)

2. THROUGH APOSTOLIC PROPHETIC PARTNERSHIP

2.1 THE KING OF ISRAEL AND ELISHA

II Ki 6:8-12

8 Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place."

9 And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there."

10 Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?"

12 And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."(NKJ)

2.2 JOASH AND ELISHA

II Ki 13:14-19

14 Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!"

15 And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows.

16 Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So he put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands.

17 And he said, "Open the east window"; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the LORD'S deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them."

18 Then he said, "Take the arrows"; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped.

19 And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times."(NKJ)

2.3 HEZEKIAH AND ISAIAH

2 Chr 32:20-21

20 Now because of this King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, prayed and cried out to heaven.

21 Then the LORD sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor, leader, and captain in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned shamefaced to his own land. And when he had gone into the temple of his god, some of his own offspring struck him down with the sword there.(NKJ)

3. THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD

Isa 31:8-9

8 "Then Assyria shall fall by a sword not of man, and a sword not of mankind shall devour him. But he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall become forced labor.

9 He shall cross over to his stronghold for fear, and his princes shall be afraid of the banner," says the LORD, whose fire is in Zion and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.
(NKJ)

Micah 5:6

They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, and the land of Nimrod at its entrances; thus He shall deliver us from the Assyrian, when he comes into our land and when he treads within our borders (NKJ)

NOTES:

THE PRIDE OF THE ASSYRIAN SPIRIT

ISAIAH 10/EZEK 31

Zeph 2:15

This is the rejoicing city that dwelt securely, that said in her heart, "I am it, and there is none besides me." How has she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down! Everyone who passes by her shall hiss and shake his fist.(NKJ)