

After These Things

After these things, and the establishment thereof, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself. – 2 Chronicles 32:1

We cannot freeze time. It is a reality to be used for our learning, and one to be leveraged to our benefit or detriment. Whatever is happening now, there will soon be something happening “after these things.” In the case of our text, Judah has just experienced a great revival. King Hezekiah got serious about spiritual matters and led the nation in a return to Jehovah. Wonderful happenings that accompany such times of awakening had occurred. Great movements of heart toward heaven had brought special blessing from Heaven’s God. The nation was at a spiritual zenith the likes of which it had arguably not seen since the days of Solomon or David. It was in such a setting that the news of Sennacherib’s invasion came.

This is frequently the case. Great times of revival and spiritual movement in our hearts stir the forces of Hell, and God permits the agents of evil to assess our sincerity and resolution of will “after these things.” We cannot go from mountain top to higher mountain top in our walk with the Lord without descending into the valleys of trial and testing. Our spiritual fortitude cannot stand solely with hands raised in worship. Our surrender to His will and His Word must experience opposition from the legions of darkness in order for us to commit our hearts to the greatness of God despite the apparent absence of His protective blessing. Where is He as the devil’s armies encamp outside our gate? Why has He not shown Himself and hastened to our rescue? Wait – what is that we hear? The enemy not only mocks us, but our God as well? Like Goliath, they dare to insult the Holy One of Heaven? Let us hasten to spread our matter before Him in prayer, not merely to ask Him to save us (for He can also keep us through the fire), but most importantly to beseech Him to glorify Himself in the eyes of His enemies. It is God’s greatness that matters, not our welfare. It is His will, not ours, that needs be done.

If such times as those that occur “after these things” were never to transpire, our faith would be a shallow, emotionally based wading pool, and we would be children tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine. The trials that occur after the plateaus of victory serve to fortify our spiritual house, mitigate our pre-occupation with our own comfort, and deepen our desire for the glory of our God. It is these moments that make our faith a deep and flowing fountain that can be drawn from in any situation and serve as a life-giving spring to others in a dry and thirsty land where no water is.

Where are you today, dear friend? Are you in the midst of wonderful revival? The Lord bless you and keep you if you are! But if you are experiencing an “after these things” valley, take heart. The Master has not left you there alone. There is a purpose in your pain, and He will reveal it shortly. Listen and align your heart with Heaven, for the devil that mocks you and your God will be sent away empty and will soon bow the knee and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God your Father. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. -- D. Murcek