**America’s Only Hope**

**Let’s open our Bibles to 2 Kings 18**

**God has given us a plan … a new wineskin … a *new* strategy for this new era that we are convinced will be more effective and fruitful … and what I’m going to talk to you about today may be the most important part of this plan…**

**In 2 Chronicles 28, there is a king named Ahaz:**

* God gave him authority as king, but he did not use his position of authority to lead the nation in righteousness … so the nation began to be destroyed
* Things got so bad, that the people even began to worship false gods in the Temple of the Lord
* After trying––unsuccessfully––to get their attention for many years, the Lord delivered him and many of his people into the hand of the king of Syria, and the people became captives
* And because they still didn’t repent, they were defeated by another nation with what the Bible calls, “a great slaughter.”

**Now let’s talk about us…**

America was founded on biblical principles and was considered a Christian nation, but like Ahaz Christians did not use their God-given mandate and authority to lead this nation in righteousness … And look what is happening today … and if the Body of Christ doesn’t wake up and use its authority in fervent prayer and the demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit, our nation will continue to be destroyed … unnecessarily!

Some may ask the question, is it too late?

**Let me tell you about Hezekiah,** **Son of Ahaz who became King**

**2 Kings 18:1–7 (NKJV)** 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. **2** 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. **3** And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done. **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. **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. **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. **7** The Lord was with him; he prospered wherever he went…

**BUT SOME YEARS LATER, THE KING OF ASSYRIA CAME AGAINST HEZEKIAH AND JERUSALEM**

**2 Chronicles 32:10–14 (NKJV)** “Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria: **… 13** Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of other lands? Were the gods of the nations of those lands in any way able to deliver their lands out of my hand? **14** Who was there among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed that could deliver his people from my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you from my hand?

**2 Kings 19:15–20 (NKJV)** 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. **16** 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. **17** Truly, Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, **18** 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. **19** 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.” **20** Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard.’

**2 Kings 19:35 (NKJV)** 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.

* Under Ahaz, the nation was being destroyed… and it looked too late to be saved
* But then his son, Hezekiah, began doing what his father should have been doing… and he used his authority to bring about supernatural deliverance and restoration:
	+ He fervently prayed, calling out to God for deliverance … and God heard his passionate prayer and brought about one of the greatest victories in recorded history.
* God is listening for fervent prayers. We don’t stop praying (for our children, city, nation) **until change comes!**
* Friends, this is what God is calling us to do today … we have a nation that is being ravaged by the enemy … fear has spread across the land … hatred and division are rampant … crime and violence are on the rise … hopelessness is invading many hearts…
* But God is not dead … and He is not deaf … our God is waiting for us His people to use our rightful authority.
* He’s ready to answer … He’s ready to act

**Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)** ‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’

**Daniel 11:32 (NKJV)** … but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

# **2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)**

# *“If My people who are called by My name will****humble themse****lves, and* ***pray*** *and* ***seek My face****, and* ***turn*** *from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

**ALONG WITH MANY OTHER MINISTRIES, GOD IS CALLING US TO UNITE TOGETHER IN PRAYER … TO USE OUR GOD GIVEN AUTHORITY … TO RELEASE HIS POWER TO SAVE OUR NATION**

**HERE’S WHAT WE BELIEVE GOD IS CALLING US TO DO:**

1. **HUMBLE OURSELVES (lower under the hand of God)**
2. **REPENT (turn)**
3. **YIELD OURSELVES (Lordship)**

1. **PRAY**
* **Take responsibility**
* **Pray with authority**

**Prayer Plan:**

**(We’re asking everyone to be a part)**

1. **Weekly**
	1. Daily prayer … **every** opportunity
		1. Set apart time
		2. Driving
		3. Doing dishes
		4. Bedtime with children
	2. At **least once or twice** walk your neighborhood
		1. Include children
	3. Pray for your neighbors, city, nation
	4. House Churches pray weekly
	5. We will send weekly prayer points
2. **Monthly**
	1. Every city will have a prayer gathering at least once in October, November and December
	2. We will communicate locations

**Thank you for … we’ll see you next week.**