

## TWO THOUSAND HORSES

2Kings 18:19-25

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. In this passage we have recorded a dramatic incident in the life of this great king, Hezekiah
- B. None like him before or after 2Kings 18:5
- C. In our text the king of Assyria, Sennacherib, chides Hezekiah
  - 1. You can't trust Egypt he says v 21
  - 2. God won't help you - you tore down his alters v 22
  - 3. The people are not behind you v 23 (I will give you 2,000 horses if you can put riders on them!)
- D. There are two important lessons in this insult handed out by the king of Assyria that we want to notice at this time

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. OPPORTUNITIES

- A. Sennacherib king of Assyria is saying that Hezekiah couldn't fight even if given the opportunity to have modern equipment
  - 1. How many of us could fight if we were given the opportunities we desire
  - 2. Many of us are not using the opportunities we have
- B. Our service to Jesus is measured on basis of two things
  - 1. Our ability, and our opportunities
  - 2. From this, God can tell a third thing - that is our willingness to perform
- C. Notice the account in Matt 25:14-30
  - 1. Each man given talents on basis of ability
  - 2. Talent represents opportunity
  - 3. The difference was in the willingness to perform
- D. Notice Paul's exhortation 2Cor 8:11,12
  - 1. Paul infers a man only has so much
  - 2. But that he can do all that the Lord expects of him with what he has
  - 3. The willing mind comes first
- E. The question is not, can we sit astraddle 2,000 horses, but are we willing to take advantage of our opportunities
  - 1. If we were given 2,000 opportunities to preach the gospel could we handle them?
  - 2. Are we even taking care of the ones we have?
  - 3. If we prepare now by taking advantage of the ones we have, then when the big opportunities come, we will be ready 2Tim 2:2

#### II. THE ENEMIES' HORSES

- A. This is the height of insolence, the enemy is the one offering the Horses
  - 1. Hezekiah had all the help and strength he needed with God's Help

- 2. He didn't need the enemies' horses!
- B. The devil today is offering his assistance
  - 1. Says you can't do what the Lord wants done without using something beside what God has authorized
  - 2. The religious world and many in the church have accepted the enemies' "horses" (see notes about ACU 2004 lectures)
  - 3. The gospel has become perverted with all kinds of social schemes Gal 1:6-9
- C. God's way is adequate
  - 1. Hezekiah accepted God's way and was delivered 2Kings 19:34,35
  - 2. You can't serve God and the devil Matt 6:24
  - 3. The gospel is God's power to save Rom 1:16 - Let it work as God intended
- D. There are some things we don't need:
  - 1. The enemies' ways of raising money 1Cor 16:1,2
  - 2. The enemies' ways of worship Jhn 4:24 (June 14 Harpeth Hills church of Christ in Brentwood, TN introduced instrumental music in their worship – a separate service)
  - 3. The special programs of the enemy for keeping our young people - the gospel will keep them. (Harpeth Hills has a gym)
  - 4. The super organizations of the enemy to do the work of the local congregation (Herald of Truth – sponsored by Highland church, Abilene, TX; World Evangelism sponsored by Liberty Church of Christ, Dennis, MS among many others)
- E. We need to rely on God and His way
  - 1. God's ways higher than ours Isa 55:8,9
  - 2. God will show us the way Prov 3:5,6
  - 3. We must simply be ready unto every good work Tit 3:1
  - 4. God will give us all the opportunities we need and that we have the ability to handle Eph 3:20. So we don't need the enemies' "HORSES"

### CONCLUSION:

- A. Determine today that you will obey him and not yield to the temptation to partake of what the enemy offers Heb 5:8,9
- B. If you haven't been using your ability in taking advantage of the opportunities you have from time to time - then resolve today that you are going to do so!
- C. If you have not been allowing God to have His way - resolve that from now on you will do things God's way!

Abilene Christian University

Dear Friends:

The Abilene Christian University has taken a bold step in their 2004 Lectureship, and has clearly defined the terms for reforming the Churches of Christ in 21st century. These reforms are already being implemented in many congregations. These reforms will fundamentally change the Church of Christ as we know it. A few of the key elements of this reformation movement are as follows:

1. We should cease our elite and sectarian behavior, and ask our brethren in all denominations to forgive our sins, especially that we said they weren't saved.
2. We must not say that we have the truth, but that we are on a spiritual journey, just as our brethren in the denominations are on their spiritual journey.
3. We should have open fellowship with all who say they believe in Jesus. We should follow the example of brave reformists who ask denominational preachers to share pulpits with their congregations. We should also share major social and religious events with our denominational brethren. We should be ecumenical (promoting or relating to unity among the world's Christian churches. jlh) in our thinking and practice, and should openly align ourselves with the current evangelical ecumenical movement.
4. We should continue to say that baptism is important, but that it is not essential for salvation. We should recognize that there are many non-immersed believers who are saved.