STAND AGAINST FEAR
(How Big is the Problem; How Big is God?)

2 Chronicles 32:24-26 24 In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death, and he prayed to the LORD; and He spoke to him and gave him a sign. 25 But Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up; therefore wrath was looming over him and over Judah and Jerusalem. 26 Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

Background: Hezekiah had made a terrible mistake; the nation was in jeopardy of Assyrian King Sennacherib. When they were moving their archives, they discovered Korah’s singing guild which had been lost over the years. It included Solomon’s proverbs 25-29.

Proverbs 25:1-2 1 These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied: 2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

Principle: God knows your answer before you know your problem - Before the foundation of the world, Jesus was made your provision for victory (yesterday, today and forever). It is wisdom to know that God doesn’t move in our time but at the right time; we don’t provide solutions, we receive them.

Proverbs 25:3 3 As the heavens for height and the earth for depth, So the heart of kings is unsearchable. {Hezekiah found his own heart surprising. So do we.}

Proverbs 25:4 4 Take away the dross from silver, And it will go to the silversmith for jewelry. {Remove dross from the heart and it will commune with God (i.e., 1 Jn.1:9)}

Proverbs 25:5 5 Take away the wicked from before the king, And his throne will be established in righteousness. {Remove the dross of evil counsel as with the 10 spies… Hezekiah’s Cabinet said go to Egypt for help} However, God spoke through Isaiah:

Isaiah 31:1 1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the LORD!

The King did repent before Sennacherib arrived even though, at first, he was overwhelmed by circumstances. Don’t compare yourself to giants; compare giants to God and His perspective.

Hezekiah’s Sin:
Isaiah 38:1 1 In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, “Thus says the LORD: ’Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.’ ” {Sin unto death is not hell but being removed as an impediment to the furtherance of God’s will in the earth.}

Isaiah 38:2-6 2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, 3 and said, “Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly. 4 And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying, 5 “Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: ’I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years. 6 I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city.’ ”
Isaiah 36:1 Now it came to pass in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah that Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.
Sennacherib means, “sin has increased the lost brothers”. Whenever Assyria conquered, they translocated or translated people (trans = across; late = lines) to destroy unity and assimilate into a new culture. In God, it is out of dark into light, death into life, cursing into blessing, the government of this world into the Kingdom of the Son; the ultimate translocation is the rapture.

Isaiah 36:2-6 Then the king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh with a great army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. And he stood by the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller’s Field. 3 And Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to him. 4 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? 5 I say you speak of having plans and power for war; but they are mere words. Now in whom do you trust, that you rebel against me?’”

Isaiah 36:7-8 But if you say to me, ‘We trust in the LORD our God,’ is it not He whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away, and said to Judah and Jerusalem, ‘You shall worship before this altar’?” 8 Now therefore, I urge you, give a pledge to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give you two thousand horses—if you are able on your part to put riders on them! (I’ll make you a bet 2000 to 1 odds)

Isaiah 36:9-10 How then will you repel one captain of the least of my master’s servants, and put your trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen? 10 Have I now come up without the LORD against this land to destroy it? The LORD said to me, ‘Go up against this land, and destroy it.’

Isaiah 36:11-12 Then Eliakim, 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.” 12 But the Rabshakeh said, “Has my master sent me to your master and to you to speak these words, and not to the men who sit on the wall, who will eat and drink their own waste with you?” (He will convey his threat to the entire congregation)

Isaiah 36:13-17 Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out with a loud voice in Hebrew, and said, “Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria!” 14 Thus says the king: ‘Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you; 15 nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, “The LORD will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.”’ 16 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; 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. (Don’t believe your leaders. I’ll go easy on you = the devil offers deals by appealing to your comfort zone.)

Isaiah 36:18-20 Beware lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, “The LORD will deliver us.” Has any one of the gods of the nations delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria? 19 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Indeed, have they delivered Samaria from my hand? 20 Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?” (boasting)
Isaiah 36:21 But they held their peace and answered him not a word; for the king’s commandment was, “Do not answer him.” {No comment as with Nehemiah on the wall}

Isaiah 36:22-37:1 Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and told him the words of the Rabshakeh. And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. {Go to God}

Then a letter arrives saying:

Isaiah 37:10 “Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying: ‘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.”

Isaiah 37:14-17 And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. Then Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, saying:

15 O LORD of hosts, 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 all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.

Isaiah 37:20 Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD, You alone.” {It’s all about “You Lord”. Then God answers kindly to Hezekiah but is upset with Assyria (hold place)}

Ps.46 - by Hezekiah after Isaiah left:

Psalm 46:1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. A Song For Alamoth. God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. {God is now a help}

Psalm 46:2 Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea: {Armies flow through valleys and look like the sea}

Psalm 46:3 Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah {Hoofbeats = waters roar - Problems are huge but trusting God is more solid than the land, the earth = word will stand forever but the earth won't. }

Psalm 46:4 There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. {This River is in us to make glad = joy inside, even in fear, the greatest fear…}

Psalm 46:5 God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. {This is the midnight hour, the face of death (to be absent from the body is…Lord) “Not be moved” = taken captive = Shall not lose… }

Psalm 46:6-7 The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah {Armies can desolate, nuclear war can, but Jesus can’t be destroyed: actually all armies will be destroyed with the word of His mouth}

Psalm 46:8-10 Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has made desolations in the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! {“Be still” and know that I am in control, not you}
God’s answer is in Isa.37:

**Isaiah 37:33-35** 33 “Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: ‘He shall not come into this city, Nor shoot an arrow there, Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it.’ 34 By the way that he came, By the same shall he return; And he shall not come into this city,’ Says the LORD. 35 ‘For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.’ ” {No way!}

**Isaiah 37:36** 36 Then 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. {Angel of Lord = Jesus. 185,000 crack troops die in one night. Raksheba said give me odds of 2000-1. Jesus says that’s not fair; make it 185,000 to 1.}

This record has never been broken but at Armageddon the Lord will destroy all the armies of the earth with the sword of the word of His mouth.

When the word of the Lord came to Hezekiah, it was to turn the tide, to win the victory.

He’s on your side. It is not how big a problem you have or how complex the issue is; it is, “How big is your God?”