

The angel of death

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 18:13-37; 2 Chronicles 32:1-23

When Hezekiah was the king, many nations were under the rule of the Assyrians. During the 6th year of Hezekiah's reign, the Israelites were captured. The Judeans feared that the next attack would be over them. Therefore, Hezekiah made a covenant with the Egyptians. They trusted that the Egyptians would help them. After 8 years, the Assyrian king Sennacherib came against Judah. Except for Jerusalem, he captured all other cities. Hezekiah refused to pay taxes to the Assyrians and encouraged his soldiers to battle against them.

The valor that Hezekiah had before was not found in him now. Realizing the strength of the enemies, Hezekiah sent word to that king saying, 'I have done a mistake. I will meet all your demands if you will go back'. He did not count on the strength of God. The king of Assyria imposed huge taxes on Hezekiah. He took from the temple gold weighing 1026 kgs and silver weighing 10260 kgs and gave it to the king of Assyria. But all of this did not suffice the king. He sent a huge army led by some cruel princes against Jerusalem. They said to the rulers at Jerusalem that there was no point in trusting the Egyptians. They also said them not to trust in God as the gods of all the other nations had handed over their land into their hands. They said them that they would be taken to their land as slaves. They spoke all of this in front of people and embarrassed them.

Hezekiah who heard their words was afraid and thus humbled himself and went into the temple of God. He sent his ministers to Isaiah the prophet to inquire of the Lord. The King of Assyria had written a letter to Hezekiah in which he made a mockery of God. Hezekiah took that letter to the temple of God, opened it in His presence and made his supplication. God answered through the prophet Isaiah. That night God sent his angel of death into the camp of the Assyrians. That one night, the angel of death slew 1,85,000 Assyrian soldiers. The King of Assyria was slain by the hands of his sons. Hezekiah took his problems before God and God gave him the victory.

Questions:

1. What was the problem that Hezekiah faced?
2. What did Hezekiah do?
3. How did God give him the victory?