

2 Chronicles 32:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

Analysis

Hezekiah's exhortation to Judah explains why they need not fear Assyria: 'With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Ahaz king of Judah.' The contrast - 'arm of flesh' (zero'a basar) versus 'LORD our God' - distinguishes between mere human power and divine omnipotence. Sennacherib had only creaturely strength, while Judah had the Creator who 'helps' and 'fights battles.' The people's response - 'rested themselves' (samakh - lean/rely) on Hezekiah's words - demonstrated faith. This teaches that spiritual leaders must direct people's trust to God, not human resources. Christ incarnates this truth - fully human ('arm of flesh') yet fully God, fighting and winning our battles.

Historical Context

Sennacherib's invasion (701 BCE) brought Assyria's vast military machine against Jerusalem. Hezekiah's faith-building words prepared people for the miraculous deliverance when God's angel destroyed 185,000 Assyrians (32:21), vindicating trust in God over human calculation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What 'arms of flesh' - human solutions, political powers, personal abilities - are you tempted to trust instead of God?
2. How can you cultivate the ability to 'rest yourself' on God's promises when circumstances seem overwhelming?

Interlinear Text

עִמּוֹ H5973	זֶרְ וַעֲ H2220	וְעִמָּנוּ H5973	בְּשָׁר H1320	יְהוָה H3068	אֱלֹהֵינוּ H430
With him is an arm	of flesh	but with us is the LORD	our God		
לְעֲזָרָנוּ H5826	וּלְהִלָּחָנוּ H3898	מִלְחָמֹתֵינוּ H4421	וַיִּשְׁמָכוּ H5564	הָעָם H5971	עַל H5921
to help	us and to fight	our battles	rested	And the people	
דִּבְּרֵיהֶם H1697	יְחִזְקִיָּהוּ H3169	מֶלֶךְ H4428	יְהוּדָה H3063		
themselves upon the words	of Hezekiah	king	of Judah		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 17:5 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

2 Chronicles 20:15 (Kingdom): And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not your's, but God's.

2 Chronicles 20:17 (References Lord): Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

Isaiah 41:10 (References God): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Acts 18:10 (Parallel theme): For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

2 Timothy 4:17 (References Lord): Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

Psalms 46:11 (References God): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

1 John 4:4 (References God): Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

2 Chronicles 13:12 (References God): And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.

Deuteronomy 20:4 (References God): For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.