

February 27, 2019
“Five Keys to Overcoming Discouragement”
2 Kings 18: 9-23
David Self

Key #1: Recognize the Attack “Be serious! Be alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

- 1. The Enemy Points to Past Failures “In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Israel’s King Hoshea son of Elah, Shalmaneser king of Assyria marched against Samaria and besieged it. ¹⁰The Assyrians captured it at the end of three years.” (18:9-10)**

- 2. The Enemy Tempts with Appeasement “In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. ¹⁴So Hezekiah king of Judah sent word to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, “I have done wrong; withdraw from me. Whatever you demand from me, I will pay.” (18:13-14)**

- 3. The Enemy Sends Discouraging Messengers “Then the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rab-saris, and the Rabshakeh, along with a massive army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. They advanced and came to Jerusalem, and they took their position by the aqueduct of the upper pool, which is by the highway to the Fuller’s Field.” (18:17)**

- 4. The Enemy Ridicules Our Resources**
 - a. Ridiculing the Army “What are you relying on? ²⁰You think mere words are strategy and strength for war.” (18:20)**

 - b. Ridiculing our Allies “Look, you are now trusting in Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff that will enter and pierce the hand of anyone who leans on it.” (18:21)**

- c. **Ridiculing the Almighty “Suppose you say to me: We trust in the LORD our God. Isn’t He the One whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem: You must worship at this altar in Jerusalem?” (18:22)**

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