

## Nosehook

When the king of Assyria, Sennacherib, threatened King Hezekiah with large numbers of fighting forces. He was not content with just threatening and insulting the king, he blasphemed God too; believing that the God of Hezekiah, was just like other gods. King Hezekiah sent his servants to speak to Isaiah the prophet, to find out from God, exactly what they were to do to protect themselves.

*And Isaiah said to them, "Thus you shall say to your master, 'Thus says the Lord: "Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me. Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land." ' ' " (2Ki 19:6-7)*

*Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard.' This is the word which the Lord has spoken concerning him: 'The virgin, the daughter of Zion, has despised you, laughed you to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem has shaken her head behind your back! Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice, and lifted up your eyes on high? Against the Holy One of Israel... But I know your dwelling place, your going out and your coming in, and your rage against Me. Because your rage against Me and your tumult have come up to My ears, therefore I will put My hook in your nose and My bridle in your lips, and I will turn you back by the way which you came... For I will defend this city, to save it for My sake and for My servant David's sake.' " (2Ki 19:20-22,27-28,34)*

*And it came to pass on a certain night that 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. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh. Now it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the temple of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place. (2Ki 19:35-37)*

The Assyrians used nosehooks to bring the defeated kings, back to their country. This account shows us, that if we seek the Lord first in our trials, He is willing and waiting to take the trial, and turn it around for our good. One would think that after this example, the people would remember this lesson for a very long time. However, Hezekiah's son Manasseh clearly didn't listen, was filled with self pride or was just extremely arrogant.

*Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel. For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; he raised up altars for Baal, and made a wooden image, as Ahab king of Israel had done; and he worshipped all the host of heaven and served them. He also built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name." And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the Lord. Also he made his son pass through the fire, practised soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger.*

*He even set a carved image of Asherah that He had made, in the house of which the Lord had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever; and I will not make the feet of Israel wander anymore from the land which I gave their fathers – only if they are careful to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that My servant Moses commanded them."*

*But they paid no attention, and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the Lord spoke by His servants the prophets, saying, "Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations (he has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols), therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle. And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab; I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. So I will forsake the remnant of My inheritance and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become victims of plunder to all their enemies, because they have done evil in My sight, and have provoked Me to anger since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day.'" Moreover Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides his sin by which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the Lord. (2Ki 21:1-16)*

*And the Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen. Therefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon. Now when he was in affliction, he implored the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God. After this he built a wall outside the City of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate; and it enclosed Ophel, and he raised it to a very great height. Then he put military captains in all the fortified cities of Judah. He took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the Lord, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the Lord and in Jerusalem; and he cast them out of the city. He also repaired the altar of the Lord, sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it, and commanded Judah to serve the Lord God of Israel. Nevertheless the people still sacrificed on the high places, but only to the Lord their God. (2Ch 33:10-17)*

There was only one altar before the temple, where the blood of the sin sacrifices was poured out. The cross of crucifixion, became the last altar, where the blood of Jesus was poured out; God's full payment for sin, for all people who repent and acknowledge the sacrifice Jesus Christ, God's Son, made on their behalf.

The sacrifices we make today, are not blood sacrifices for sin; but material sacrifices, and offerings of praise and worship to God. There is no reason for an altar, in a church building which is dedicated to God for praise and worship.

*I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings. (Jer 17:10)*

*Righteous are You, O Lord, when I plead with You; yet let me talk with You about Your judgments. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously? You have planted them, yes, they have taken root; they grow, yes, they bear fruit. You are near in their mouth but far from their mind. But You, O Lord, know me; You have seen me, and You have tested my heart toward You. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and prepare them for the day of slaughter. How long will the land mourn, and the herbs of every field wither? The beasts and birds are consumed, for the wickedness of those who dwell there, because they said, "He will not see our final end."*

*"If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan? For even your brothers, the house of your father, even they have dealt treacherously with you; yes, they have called a multitude after you. Do not believe them, even though they speak smooth words to you. I have forsaken My house, I have left My heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of My soul into the hands of her enemies. My heritage is to Me like a lion in the forest; it cries out against Me; therefore I have hated it. My heritage is to Me like a speckled vulture; the vultures all around are against her. Come, assemble all the beasts of the field, bring them to devour! Many rulers have destroyed My vineyard, they have trodden My portion underfoot; they have made My pleasant portion a desolate wilderness. They have made it desolate; desolate, it mourns to Me; the whole land is made desolate, because no one takes it to heart. The plunderers have come on all the desolate heights in the wilderness, for the sword of the Lord shall devour from one end of the land to the other end of the land; no flesh shall have peace. They have sown wheat but reaped thorns; they have put themselves to pain but do not profit. But be ashamed of your harvest because of the fierce anger of the Lord."*

*Thus says the Lord: "Against all My evil neighbors who touch the inheritance which I have caused My people Israel to inherit – behold, I will pluck them out of their land and pluck out the house of Judah from among them. Then it shall be, after I have plucked them out, that I will return and have compassion on them and bring them back, everyone to his heritage and everyone to his land. And it shall be, if they will learn carefully the ways of My people, to swear by My name, 'As the Lord lives,' as they taught My people to swear by Baal, then they shall be established in the midst of My people. But if they do not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation," says the Lord. (Jer 12:1-17)*

#### Abominations in the modern 'Churches of Manasseh'

Churches have shed much innocent blood, in their zeal for their manmade traditions and doctrines. Clergy dress in expensive, and highly decorated clothing. They give themselves offices and titles, to elevate themselves above others. Calling themselves, holy and righteous. They build altars in their churches. They place idols and holy relics, in their churches. They bury the dead in their churches. Observe Sunday as the holy day, instead of honouring the Sabbath Day. Promote their own brand of religion, instead of teaching what the Bible says. They teach that God's Law is not holy and good, and that we are free from it. They teach that man does not have a spirit, only body and breath. They teach that death is just a sleep for all men, righteous and wicked alike. They ignore the fact, that the present state of the earth, is only temporary. They teach God's plan for mankind is finished, and forget the judgement to come. They teach people to value the material, instead of the spiritual. They teach spiritual pride instead of spiritual humility. They teach people, to rule as kings, instead of serving as Christ's slaves. They differentiate between drunkenness and gluttony. They teach what you can get, and not, what you can give.....

People are led away by the nosehook of lust for the material. The greatest threat to the truth, comes from within the churches. The way to distinguish between truth and error is only found by reading the Bible for oneself. Listen to all the teachings, work through all the studies; but compare everything you hear and see, to God's Word. If you have a question, rather take it to God and ask Him about it. You may be surprised, by how quickly He gives you the correct answer.

*"But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul." (Deu 4:29)*

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." (Deu 6:5)*

*"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you." (Deu 31:6)*

*But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1Sa 16:7)*

*"Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God." (1Ch 22:19)*

*But know that the Lord has set apart for Himself him who is godly; the Lord will hear when I call to Him. Be angry and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord. (Psa 4:4-5)*

*Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage. (Psa 84:5)*

*Praise the Lord! I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation. (Psa 111:1)*

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psa 139:23-24)*

*Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. (Isa 55:6)*

*"Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God." (Eze 11:19-20)*

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1Th 5:23)*

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