

Templates of Truth with Rick Smith
Audio Script – March 27, 2009

What is it, or who is it, that you place your greatest trust and security in these days? Is it your career, financial portfolio, your family, the stock market, the White House? During the days of Isaiah's ministry, King Hezekiah was confronted with this important question. We discover the answer in today's Templates of Truth.

The fierce king of Assyria had scaled a military campaign against Hezekiah and the people of God. He sent a messenger to Jerusalem to confront Hezekiah with a simple question – *what is this confidence that you trust...on whom do you rely?* (Isaiah 36:4-5). The Assyrians knew about the Hebrew God, Yahweh. They knew Hezekiah was a faithful king to the Lord God, and it was in Him that he placed his confidence and trust. The Assyrian arrogance, however, was a blatant blasphemy against God! They said, *do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying, "The Lord will surely deliver us" ...do not listen to Hezekiah...who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their land from my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"* (36:15-20). God did not stand for such mockery. Not only did He deliver Hezekiah from the hands of the Assyrian king, the angel of the Lord killed 185,000 Assyrian troops and their king was killed by the sword of his own sons (37:36-38).

This Biblical account is a simple lesson in faith and trust. Life often comes down to this basic question: in what and in whom do you rely and trust? In our country's present economic crisis, many have discovered that their stock plan and 401 retirement account is not something they can rely on to be stable and secure. Most of us have seen thousands of dollars vanish from the balances on these accounts in recent months. There is no guarantee that we will ever recover those lost funds and otherwise depend on them for financial security during retirement days. Since the market is so volatile, it makes no sense to cash in and buy more active stock or move it over into more stable mutual funds. The unfortunate fact is: nothing in America's financial infrastructure is anything close to stable. No one really knows if or when it ever will be.

So, in what or in whom do we trust? Many foolish people trust President Obama and Washington's notorious stimulus bail-out plans. Already, we have seen those corrupted and abused. At no time in the history of our nation has the national debt soared so high in such a short period of time than these plans have made it since Inauguration Day. What intends to be so hopeful to the present economy will have an oppressive pay-back appointment for our grand children and great grand children not too many years from now.

If your trust and reliance is on anything or anyone other than the Lord God, you will be very disappointed. Stress, worry and fear will plague your life in these uncertain days. The message of God through Isaiah to Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem is as reliable & trustworthy today as it was then – *Thus says the Lord, "Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard* (37:6). God promised them that He would take care of the Assyrian threat, and He did!

Scripture boldly affirms – *is anything too difficult for the Lord?* (Genesis 18:14). The obvious answer is, "no!" No army or king is too difficult for God to defeat. No failed economy is too

difficult for God to recover. No sickness is beyond God's ability to heal, as Hezekiah would also discover in chapter 38. God can take whatever is left in your retirement account and make it meet your needs with abundance. God can take whatever confronts your life at this moment and care for you with the greatest of love. You will be OK! You have to decide today once and for all – *what is this confidence that you trust...on whom do you rely?*

That's today's Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in Christ Jesus.

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