

## Dr. John Oswalt, Kings, Session 27, Part 2

### 2 Kings 18-19, Part 2

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So, look at Hezekiah's prayer, verse 14. This is one of the great prayers of the Bible. Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it.

Now imagine this great euphoria. They've pulled back, and they're gone. And now, oh, oh, they're not gone.

They're going to be back. Now, look what he does. I love this.

Where did he go? Went to the temple. And he spread it out before the Lord. I like it.

I imagine him saying, Lord, have you read this? Lord says, yes, I have, as a matter of fact. Now, notice every word in this prayer is important. Yahweh, who is Yahweh? What does the text say? The God of Israel.

You're the God who has given himself to us. You're the God who has created us. You're the God who brought us into existence.

You've got a stake in us. What comes next? Yahweh, the God of Israel. What next? Enthroned where? Between the cherubim.

What's that about? The Ark of the Covenant, the law of Moses. God says I will meet you in that space above that box. Now we don't know what cherubim look like.

A pretty good guess is they probably look like the Sphinx, with the front quarters of a lion, the hind quarters of an ox, the wings of an eagle, and the face of a man. That's a guess.

Nobody knows, but here they are. So, this is Yahweh, the God who belongs to Israel, the God who made Israel, who is the king, but the king who is particularly seen in the context of the covenant, the covenant God. You swore to us if we would be your people, you would be our God.

But is he just the God of Israel? No, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of Israel. You alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. Yes, you're the great high God without whom there is no equal, apart from whom there's no equal.

And you're the God who gave himself to us. That's a pretty good place to have that kind of a God for you. And why is he alone over all the kingdoms of the earth? He made it.

He's the creator. Somebody taught Hezekiah some pretty good theology. It's not just because you're bigger than other gods, not just because you're better than other gods.

You're the only God because you're the only one that made the whole show. 16, give ear, Lord, and hear. Open your eyes, Lord, and see.

What's he saying? Does God have eyes? The idols do. Does God have ears? The idols do. What's he saying? He's saying you are able to hear, and they can't.

You are able to see and they can't. Because look what he calls him at the end of the sentence. Who is he? The living God.

That's fascinating. That term only appears between a half dozen and a dozen times in the Old Testament. It's not at all common.

But the places where it occurs are very significant. The idols are dead gods. The idols are lifeless gods.

But we serve a God who has no ears but is glad to hear. Who has no eyes but sees everything. Give ear, Lord, and hear.

Open your eyes, Lord, and see. Listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to do what? Insult, mock, ridicule, reproach. It's a good Hebrew word with about eight connotations.

Well, now, is that what Sennacherib meant to do? No, I don't think so. He just meant to try to badger these people into surrendering and distrusting their God. And Hezekiah says, but what he was really doing was attacking you.

When people attack the church today, they're attacking Yahweh. And that's really dangerous. That's really dangerous.

Verse 17. It's true, Lord. He's not lying.

The Assyrian kings have laid waste to these nations and their lands. They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them. And this is, you just have to love it.

Why did they do that? Because they're not gods. He's mistaken. He thought he threw gods into the fire.

No, he didn't. He just threw chunks of wood and stone into the fire. Those things aren't gods.

I've never gotten over. I was walking down a street in India. Thinking about something else and glanced over into a yard beside a garage and did a double take.

The guy was making gods. He had them in all stages. He was doing the elephant god.

He had some that were just still wet plaster. Some were partially painted, and some were all painted. And it just, I know I stood there with my mouth open.

What in the world did you just take wet plaster? And made a God, for they were not gods but only wood and stone made by human hands. Right through the Bible, that contrast.

Are you going to worship the maker? Or are you going to worship what you have made? Who's the creator here, him or you? Can you run the world? That was God's question to Job. Job was pretty smart. He said, no, no, I can't run the world.

I don't want to try now. Here it comes. Now, Lord, our God, I'm going to give you the living Oswald version here.

Now, Lord, our God, deliver us from his hand because we are such faithful servants of yours. And you need us. Is that what your text says? No, no.

If God didn't love him before this, he loved him now. Now, Lord, our God, deliver us from his hand. So that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, Yahweh our God.

Lord, give me the grace to pray like that when I'm in trouble. When things are going badly, Lord, I'm such a good servant of yours.

Now, Hezekiah is going to come off with that a little later. But here, when the whole kingdom is in peril, he's got it right. Lord, would you be good enough to do a miracle here? Not because we deserve it.

Not because we've earned it. Not because there's anything in us that we can demand that you would. But so that the world may know, oh, oh, can God do that in our lives? Oh, God, do your work in my life in such a way that it'll be apparent you are God.

I have to say that too much of the time, I'm too careful and too smart to get into that kind of a difficult situation. Where God has to act, or I'm going to fall on my face. And sometimes, when God maneuvers me into that situation, I get upset with him.

Here's your opportunity, Lord, go for it. Go for it.