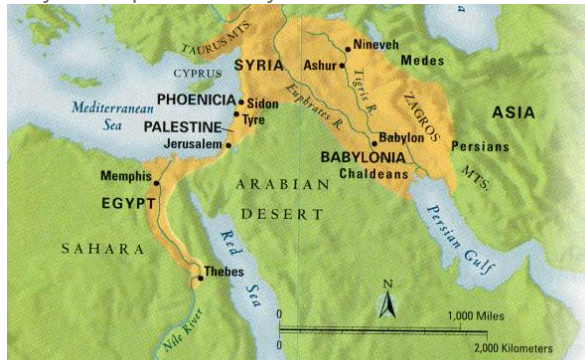


REFRAMING CURRENT REALITY-HEZEKIAH

ISAIAH 36-37 – ERIC SIMPSON – JUNE 10, 2018

Assyrian Empire in the days of Hezekiah & Isaiah:



Living in step with God's purposes doesn't exempt us from 500lb lions, it reframes them.

"Deciding what I most need out of life, carefully calculating my next move, and generally allowing my autonomous self to run amuck inflates my sense of self-importance and reduces the God of my incredible journey to the role of spectator on the sidelines...One of the most arduous spiritual tasks is that of giving up control and allowing the Spirit of God to lead our lives." – Henri Nouwen

The footprints of Hezekiah's reframed reality:

➤ **He went to the temple.**

-- **this is a God-issue, not an Assyria-issue**

"It is not easy to find your way to God in a sudden crisis unless you have been in the habit of going to God about everything." – Oswald Chambers

➤ **He reached out to Isaiah.**

-- **sacred companions give the gift of perspective**

➤ **He called out in prayer.**

-- **God + anybody = majority**

A friend of God reminded him of the *character of God* which gave him the *perspective of God*.

"Trust in God does not presume that God will intervene...Often trust begins on the far side of despair. When all human resources are exhausted, when the craving for reassurances is stifled, when we forgo control...." – John Shea

God loves impossible odds