

The Siege of Jerusalem

Isaiah 36

Put your trust in God when surrounded by the enemy

A. The Threat (Isaiah 36:1-3)

1. No one can stop the attack (36:1)

2. The enemy is near just as God said (36:2)

Isaiah 7:3

3. The enemy wants to meet you (36:3)

Luke 22:31

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Isaiah 36

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B. The Taunts (Isaiah 36:4-11)

1. What are you thinking? (36:4-5)

2. Why are you making the same mistake as Ahaz?

3. Why are you trusting in a God that you can't worship anymore? (36:7)

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B. The Taunts (Isaiah 36:4-11) - continued

4. Don't you know you could not even fight if I give you the means? (36:8-9)

PS: You cannot buy your way out of this anyway

2 Kings 18:13-16

5. Don't you know your God sent me here? (36:10)

2 Corinthians 11:14-15

6. The goal of the taunts - to instill fear in the people (36:11)

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C. The Tests (Isaiah 36:12-22)

1. For the people (36:12-20)

- a. Fear - A bleak picture painted (v 12)**
- b. Hezekiah's authority challenged (vv 13-15)**
- c. The people's faith challenged (vv 16-20)**
 - 1) Take the easy way out (vv 16-17)**
 - 2) Other faiths have failed (vv 18-20)**

2. For the king's messengers (36:21-22)

- a. Obedience to the king (v 21)**
- b. A true report (v 22)**

The Saving of Jerusalem

Isaiah 37

**The Lord God will fight the battles of those who cry out
to Him.**

I. Hezekiah's Reaction to Rabshakeh (Isaiah 37:1-9)

A. He was grieved (37:1-2)

Isaiah 37:1-2

1 And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD.

2 And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests covered with sackcloth, unto Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz.

I. Hezekiah's Reaction to Rabshakeh (Isaiah 37:1-9)

B. He had clarity of thought and prayed (37:3-4a)

Isaiah 37:3-4

3 And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and of blasphemy: for the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth.

4 It may be the LORD thy God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God, and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that is left.

I. Hezekiah's Reaction to Rabshakeh (Isaiah 37:1-9)

C. He sought Godly Counsel (37:5)

Isaiah 37:5

So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah.

D. He exercised faith (37:6)

Isaiah 37:6

And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say unto your master, Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words that thou hast heard, wherewith the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.

I. Hezekiah's Reaction to Rabshakeh (Isaiah 37:1-9)

E. He lets God handle the problem (37:7-9)

Isaiah 37:7-9

7 Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.

8 So Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah: for he had heard that he was departed from Lachish.

9 And he heard say concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, He is come forth to make war with thee. And when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

II. Hezekiah's Reaction to Sennacherib (Isaiah 37:10-20)

A. Same trial - Different circumstances (37:10-13)

Isaiah 37:10-13

10 Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God, in whom thou trustest, deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.

11 Behold, thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by destroying them utterly; and shalt thou be delivered?

II. Hezekiah's Reaction to Sennacherib (Isaiah 37:10-20)

A. Same trial - Different circumstances (37:10-13)

Isaiah 37:10-13 - continued

12 Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed, as Gozan, and Haran, and Rezeph, and the children of Eden which were in Telassar?

13 Where is the king of Hamath, and the king of Arphad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah?

II. Hezekiah's Reaction to Sennacherib (Isaiah 37:10-20)

B. A better reaction (37:14-20)

1. He went direct to God (v 14)

Isaiah 37:14

And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up unto the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.

II. Hezekiah's Reaction to Sennacherib (Isaiah 37:10-20)

B. A better reaction (37:14-20) - continued

2. A specific prayer (37:15-20)

Isaiah 37:15-20

15 And Hezekiah prayed unto the LORD, saying,

16 O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

17 Incline thine ear, O LORD, and hear; open thine eyes, O LORD, and see: and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God.

II. Hezekiah's Reaction to Sennacherib (Isaiah 37:10-20)

B. A better reaction (37:14-20) - continued

2. A specific prayer (37:15-20)

Isaiah 37:15-20

18 Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations, and their countries,

19 And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them.

20 Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only.

III. God's Reaction to Hezekiah - Specific answers (Isaiah 37:21-35)

A. Concerning Sennacherib (37:21-29)

1. Sennacherib's evil cannot stand against the righteous (vv 21-22)

Isaiah 37:21-22

21 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent unto Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Whereas thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria:

22 This is the word which the LORD hath spoken concerning him; The virgin, the daughter of Zion, hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.

III. God's Reaction to Hezekiah - Specific answers (Isaiah 37:21-35)

A. Concerning Sennacherib (37:21-29) – continued

2. Sennacherib's evil is sin against God (vv 23-25)

Isaiah 37:23-25

23 Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

24 By thy servants hast thou reproached the Lord, and hast said, By the multitude of my chariots am I come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon; and I will cut down the tall cedars thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the height of his border, and the forest of his Carmel.

III. God's Reaction to Hezekiah - Specific answers (Isaiah 37:21-35)

A. Concerning Sennacherib (37:21-29) – continued

2. Sennacherib's evil is sin against God (vv 23-25)

Isaiah 37:23-25

25 I have digged, and drunk water; and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of the besieged places.

III. God's Reaction to Hezekiah - Specific answers (Isaiah 37:21-35)

A. Concerning Sennacherib (37:21-29) – continued

3. Sennacherib is not god, I am (vv 26-28)

Isaiah 37:26-28

26 Hast thou not heard long ago, how I have done it; and of ancient times, that I have formed it? now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldest be to lay waste defenced cities into ruinous heaps.

27 Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded: they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up.

III. God's Reaction to Hezekiah - Specific answers (Isaiah 37:21-35)

A. Concerning Sennacherib (37:21-29) – continued

3. Sennacherib is not god, I am (vv 26-28)

Isaiah 37:26-28

28 But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me.

III. God's Reaction to Hezekiah - Specific answers (Isaiah 37:21-35)

A. Concerning Sennacherib (37:21-29) – continued

4. Sennacherib's end is near (v 29)

Isaiah 37:29

Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.

III. God's Reaction to Hezekiah - Specific answers (Isaiah 37:21-35)

B. Concerning Jerusalem (37:30-35)

1. Near term provision (v 30)

Isaiah 37:30

And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such as groweth of itself; and the second year that which springeth of the same: and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof.

III. God's Reaction to Hezekiah - Specific answers (Isaiah 37:21-35)

B. Concerning Jerusalem (37:30-35)

2. Near term protection (v 31)

Isaiah 37:31

And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward:

III. God's Reaction to Hezekiah - Specific answers (Isaiah 37:21-35)

B. Concerning Jerusalem (37:30-35)

3. Near term progeny (v 32a)

Isaiah 37:32

For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.

4. I God will do this (v 32b)

Isaiah 37:32

For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.

III. God's Reaction to Hezekiah - Specific answers (Isaiah 37:21-35)

B. Concerning Jerusalem (37:30-35)

5. An amazing promise (vv 33-35)

Isaiah 37:33-35

33 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it.

34 By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD.

35 For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

IV. The End to the Assyrian Problem (Isaiah 37:36-38)

Isaiah 37:36-38

36 Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

37 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.

38 And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead.

IV. The End to the Assyrian Problem (Isaiah 37:36-38)

- A. The destruction of the “invincible” army (37:36)**
- B. The departure of the evil king Sennacherib (37:37)**
- C. The death of God’s enemy (37:38)**
- D. The demise of the Assyrians**

**It Is Easier When We Let God Fight
The Battles**