

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- 9b they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
- 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Sennacherib Invades Judah 701 BC

most likely a title and not a name

36 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. ²And the king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem, with a great army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. ³And there came out to him Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder.

⁴And the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours?' ⁵Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom do you now trust, that you have rebelled against me? ⁶Behold, you are trusting in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him. ⁷But if you say to me, 'We trust in the LORD our God,' is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, 'You shall worship before this altar?' ⁸Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them. ⁹How then can you repulse

9b It is a path exclusively for the Redeemed. These who have been bought by God. This path leads to eternity w/ God.

10 Here all the promises of God are made complete. Lifting the believer to the ultimate position of Glory w/ God. Here is only Joy as the gather at Zion, which is no longer a city on earth but the city of God in the 3rd heaven. Rev. 14.1 Mount Zion where the those who have gathered across time to be w/ God eternally. This is Everlasting Joy of a new kind. Israh lifts the individual from the battles against the wicked to a place of complete victory and eternal joy. This is Rev. 21.4 prophesied by Israh. This is God's Gift & Dream for all who walk the path of righteousness.

36.1-39.8 Except for 38.9-20 this section is basically the same as 2 Kings 18:17-20:19. The four chapters have 2 parts. Chapters 38-39 are chronologically earlier than chapters 36-37. Here Israh bridges the gap between Assyria and Babylonian Kingdoms.

- 1 Exact dating is impossible. The best would be circa 700 B.C. This is also mentioned in 2 Chron. 32.1
- 2 2 Kings 18:14-16 inserts 3 verses here in the story showing Hezekiah had tried to buy his way out of the battle. The King had broken a treaty with Assyria and paid tribute which caused him to empty the treasury and strip Gold and Silver, even stripping Gold & Silver from the temple treasury, temple doors & post. Hezekiah also moved to protect the city's water supply. Sennacherib sends officials w/ a large army to back them up.
- 3 Representatives for Judah are sent out to this official. (see also 2K 18:18)
- 4 THE RABSHAKEH does not even refer to Hezekiah as King. Bolittling him as not worthy of the title. He challenges King Hezekiah w/ a probing question about who he trust to protect him.
- 5 Hezekiah is mocked for his choices of who he trust, and the plans he has made. Does Hezekiah really think his strategy will save him? The envoy bypasses Hezekiah's envoys and speaks down to the King.
- 6 The envoy answers his own question by mocking Egypt's army.
- 7 Hezekiah's religious reforms are mocked as useless. Now he has fewer Gods to help him. Will one God be enough to save them?
- 8 The mocking continues. They will give Hezekiah 2,000 horses if he can produce 2,000 riders. The little Jewish Army is seen as no match for the massive Assyrian Army. Horses were seen as a symbol of power and strength. Hezekiah is mocked as having neither. In Isa 31.1 they looked to Egypt to provide horses for them.

a single captain among the least of my master's servants, when you trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? ¹⁰ Moreover, is it without the LORD that I have come up against this land to destroy it? The LORD said to me, "Go up against this land and destroy it." ¹¹

¹¹ Then Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it. Do not speak to us in the language of Judah within the hearing of the people who are on the wall." ¹² But the Rabshakeh said, "Has my master sent me to speak these words to your master and to you, and not to the men sitting on the wall, who are doomed with you to eat their own dung and drink their own urine?"

¹³ Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah: "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! ¹⁴ Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you. ¹⁵ Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD by saying, "The LORD will surely deliver us. This city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria." ¹⁶ Do not listen to Hezekiah. For thus says the king of Assyria: Make your peace with me and come out to me. Then each one of you will eat of his own vine, and each one of his own fig tree, and each one of you will drink the water of his own cistern, ¹⁷ until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. ¹⁸ Beware lest Hezekiah mislead you by saying, "The LORD will deliver us." Has any of the gods of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? ¹⁹ Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? ²⁰ Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their

- 9 It continues, Egypt is pictured as far inferior to Assyria and a poor choice to look to to help or deliver them in battle.
- 10 Mocking their God, they say God sent them to wipe them out, claiming God was not on Hezekiah's side but the Assyrian side in the.
- 11 Wanting to keep this taunting from upsetting the people in the city the Jewish envoys ask the Rabshakeh to speak in Aramaic.
- 12 The reply is basically NO: Those who are going to suffer should know what is coming, and how bad things are going to get.
- 13 THE RABSHAKEH ADDS INSULT TO INJURY and shouts out to the people who are listening, knowing the bad news will spread quickly. He bypasses the envoys for the king, and ignores the king and goes straight to the people.
- 14 He declares Hezekiah to weak to save them. The people have seen the Assyrian army and are already living in fear. Now the enemy declares they have no hope.
- 15 He warns them of what he considers Hezekiah's ploy to rally the people around trusting God. Godless men mock those who believe. Here it is about armies, horses, and chariots, not God and faith. Basically the envoy of Assyria is say, 'look around, you will lose!'
- 16-17 Don't listen to your king. Escape the battle, serve the real king who has the power of life and death. Surrender and serve the Assyrian king and you will be rewarded. He tells them they will live in another land where they will be well cared for. The Assyrians transported their defeated to other nations so they would be less likely to rebel, breaking their will.
- 18 Don't be fooled, no God has delivered any nation from the Assyrian army. Your God is no different.
- 19 Other nations defeated by Assyria are offered up as proof.
- 20 You will be the next to fall

lands out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?"

²¹ But they were silent and answered him not a word, for the king's command was, "Do not answer him." ²² Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and told him the words of the Rabshakeh.

Hezekiah Seeks Isaiah's Help

37 As soon as King Hezekiah heard it, he tore 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 secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz. ³ They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, 'This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. ⁴ It may be that the LORD your God will hear the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the LORD your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.'"

⁵ When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, ⁶ Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the young men of the king of Assyria have reviled me. ⁷ Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land, and I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.'"

- (20) THE envoys were silent and did not respond.
- (21) They returned to King Hezekiah in mourning. They showed that they believed the envoy of Assyria and were already defeated.
- (22) DESTROYED THE 3 messengers, Turn to mourning and are reduced to a defeated attitude.

- (1) Now the king is aware of how much trouble he is in. He had not listened to Isaiah's warnings and now goes to the house of God in sackcloth.
- (2) Now he sends 3 messengers to Isaiah. This was the prophet he had not listened to over the last few years.
- (3) Absolute turmoil and fear has overtaken the king. He says all energy is gone. They could not give birth if they were infertile.
- (4) Their hope is that Rabshakeh has so offended God that He will intervene for them. So, they ask Isaiah to speak to God for them. He is seen as the one God will listen to.
- (5) This is to emphasize that they came to Isaiah. He was not summoned by the King.
- (6) The message is clear. Ignore the taunts of the enemy and put your trust in God. Anyone can mock God, No One can defeat Him.
- (7) God has already put a plan in place to deal with the Assyrian King. He who tried to taunt with fear will fall by his own tactics. He will return home in fear and die there.