

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 DEJECTED 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 TERROR AND FEAR HAS OVERTAKEN THE KING. HE SAYS ALL ENERGY IS GONE. THEY COULD NOT GIVE BIRTH IF THEY WERE INFANTS.

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 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.

⁸ The Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that the king had left Lachish. ⁹ Now the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Cush, "He has set out to fight against you." And when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, ¹⁰ "Thus shall you speak to Hezekiah king of Judah: 'Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. ¹¹ Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, devoting them to destruction. And shall you be delivered? ¹² Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations that my fathers destroyed, Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? ¹³ Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, the king of Hena, or the king of Ivvah?'"

Hezekiah's Prayer for Deliverance

¹⁴ Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. ¹⁵ And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: ¹⁶ "O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. ¹⁷ Incline your ear, O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God. ¹⁸ Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands, 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 were destroyed. ²⁰ So now, O LORD our God, save us from his

(8) Not mentioned here it is implied Judah had sent a refusal to surrender. Rabshakeh returns to his King who is involved.

(9) Without any transition Sennacherib learns of a plan to attack him. He will need to have Hezekiah surrender or be defeated so that he will not be caught between two enemies.

(10) Here the Assyrian King repeats his message to Hezekiah. He tells Hezekiah that God's promises are empty and he will be defeated. (11) Look around this is what I do. (12) The other God's have not delivered them, and neither will your God.

(13) Like these other King you can expect to disappear from history. These King fought and lost, you can face the same if you fail to submit to him.

(14) The message was also delivered by letters. (See also 2 Chronicles 32:16,17) Hezekiah had ignored earlier the directions from God now goes to the temple himself where he opens the letter and places it before God. (15) Then he starts to pray.

(16) He states his adoration before God. Placing God high above and totally in charge. (17) Hezekiah ^{ask} God to read the letter stating it mocks God. God knows this, but it is Hezekiah's responsibility to communicate clearly what he knows and what he wants from God. (18) Part of the letter is true. Other Gods did not protect those nations. (19) Hezekiah knows these other gods were not real but manmade idols. This is why they were destroyed. (20) Hezekiah says God is real and can save them. In doing this God can prove He is the real living God.

hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone are the LORD."

Sennacherib's Fall

²¹ Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, ²² this is the word that the LORD has spoken concerning him:

"She despises you, she scorns you—
the virgin daughter of Zion;
she wags her head behind you—
the daughter of Jerusalem.

²³ "Whom have you mocked and reviled?
Against whom have you raised your voice
and lifted your eyes to the heights?
Against the Holy One of Israel!

²⁴ By your servants you have mocked the Lord,
and you have said, With my many chariots
I have gone up the heights of the mountains,
to the far recesses of Lebanon,
to cut down its tallest cedars,
its choicest cypresses,
to come to its remotest height,
its most fruitful forest.

²⁵ I dug wells
and drank waters,
to dry up with the sole of my foot
all the streams of Egypt.

21 Hezekiah's prayer is answered

22 Here the Jewish nation is seen as a young girl who is helplessly attacked, unable to defend herself. She is mocked and made fun of.

23 Though the Assyrians mocked Israel it is God who they will need to deal with.

24 The servants & messengers of Assyria have mocked God as if He was not real. They bragged about all their conquests.

25 Sennacherib is quoted as speaking that he did all this w/out God. He digs, he drinks. He does not see the Nile of Egypt as no obstacle. He can defeat anyone there is no obstacle that can stop him.

26 "Have you not heard
 that I determined it long ago?
 I planned from days of old
 what now I bring to pass,
 that you should make fortified cities
 crash into heaps of ruins,
 27 while their inhabitants, shorn of strength,
 are dismayed and confounded,
 and have become like plants of the field
 and like tender grass,
 like grass on the housetops,
 blighted before it is grown.

28 "I know your sitting down
 and your going out and coming in,
 and your raging against me.
 29 Because you have raged against me
 and your complacency has come to my
 ears,
 I will put my hook in your nose
 and my bit in your mouth,
 and I will turn you back on the way
 by which you came.'

30 "And this shall be the sign for you: this year you shall
 eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs
 from that. Then in the third year sow and reap, and plant vine-
 yards, and eat their fruit. 31 And the surviving remnant of the
 house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit
upward. 32 For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of

26) Now, comes the statement that Assyria could only do this
 if God so permitted. It was God's plan of old to use Assyria
 as an instrument of Judgment.

27) God has removed their enemies strength. God reduced
 them to a crop to be harvested. Their growth was stunted by
 God's hand. Assyria was merely an instrument used by God.

28-29) All your BRAGGING AND SPEAKING AGAINST GOD HAS
 made God act AGAINST YOU. God will see they are defeated
 and made the slaves of others.

30) ISAIAH NOW ADDRESSES JUDAH / HEZEKIAH. For the next 2
 years they will have to rely on what grows wild. THEN
 IN THE 3RD YEAR THEY WILL PLANT AND HARVEST AS FREE MEN.
 They will enjoy a crop of Fruit & Plenty. THE FIRST 2 YEARS
 would be tough but then it will get better.

31) Here the remnant will be seen AS A PLANT FIRMLY
 established that also bears fruit. THIS IS ABOUT BEING
 BLESSED BY GOD.

32) This restored nation of survivors are part of God's promise
 and long-range plans. It is messianic in that it starts in
 Jerusalem and goes out from there.

Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

³³ "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it. ³⁴ By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the LORD. ³⁵ For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David."

³⁶ And the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. ³⁷ Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home and lived at Nineveh. ³⁸ And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him down with the sword. And after they escaped into the land of Ararat, Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

Hezekiah's Sickness and Recovery

38 In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: Set your house in order, for you shall die, you shall not recover." ² Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, ³ and said, "Please, O LORD, remember how I have walked before you in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to Isaiah: ⁵ "Go and say to Hezekiah, Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will

33 THE ASSYRIANS WOULD NOT TAKE, SURROUND, OR COME NEAR JERUSALEM. THE HISTORICAL RECORDS OF SENNACHERIB DO NOT RECORD ANY APPROACH OR BATTLE AT JERUSALEM.

34 THE ASSYRIANS WILL BE FORCED TO RETURN HOME AS THEY CAME.

35 GOD DECLARES THE CITY IS SAFE FROM ASSYRIA BECAUSE HE WILL NOT LET THEM EVEN ATTACK IT.

36 GOD SENDS AN ANGEL TO KILL PART OF THE ASSYRIAN ARMY, THE ARMY AWAKES TO DEAD BODIES.

37 THE KING STOPS HIS CONQUEST AT THIS TIME.

38 HE IS KILLED BY HIS SON. ANOTHER SON TAKES HIS PLACE.

1 ALSO FOUND IN 2 KINGS 20. HERE IS A SHORTER VERSION TO SET UP THE PROPHECIES THAT WILL FOLLOW. WHEN ISAIAH CAME TO THE KING, THE KING WAS ALREADY SICK SO THIS WAS NOT A TOTAL SURPRISE.

2 EVEN THOUGH THIS WAS THE WORD OF GOD DELIVERED THROUGH THE PROPHET HEZEKIAH PRAYED FOR HEALING.

3 HEZEKIAH OVERSTATES HIS FAITHFULNESS, BUT MAY REFER TO WHAT HE HOPED HIS LIFE REPRESENTED. HE HAD OBTAINED GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND DEMONSTRATED A GROWING FAITH.

4 2 KINGS SAYS ISAIAH GOT THE REVISED MESSAGE BEFORE HE EVEN GOT HOME. HERE GOD CHANGES DIRECTION AS AN ANSWER TO DILIGENT PRAYER.

5 THE MESSAGE EVEN TELLS THE KING HE WILL BE GRANTED 15 YRS.