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Isaiah 36--39

36  King Sennacherib’s messenger boasts of Assyrian power, threatens Judah

37  King Hezekiah seeks the LORD’s help; Jerusalem is supernaturally saved

38  Isaiah tells Hezekiah of his upcoming death; Hezekiah seeks the LORD; the LORD spares his life

39  Babylonian envoys visit Hezekiah; Hezekiah displays all his treasures; Isaiah prophecies Babylonian captivity
The Assyrian Invasion          Isaiah 36–39

I. Yahweh’s work in the life of His nation   36-37

   A. Assyria’s threat     36

   B. Judah’s response    37

II. Yahweh’s work in the life of His child    38–39

   A. Hezekiah’s illness and recovery 38

   B. Hezekiah and the Babylonian envoys 39
I. Yahweh’s work in the life of His nation 36-37

A. Isaiah 36 Assyria’s Threat

1. Sennacherib conquers Judah, excluding Jerusalem v. 1
   Cf. II Chron. 31 & 32

2. Sennacherib boasts of conquering Jerusalem :2-22

   **Rabshakeh’s first speech—to Judean officials :2-10

   Theme: Where is your confidence?
   --in Egypt? It is a broken reed. :4-6
   --in Yahweh? You have forsaken Him. :7

   Summary :8-10
   --offer of “help” :8
   ---recapitulation :9-10

   The Jewish officials’ response :11-12
   Please speak in Aramaic, not Hebrew
   Rabshakeh mocks that request
Rabshakeh’s second speech---to commoners :13-20

Theme: don’t be deceived by Hezekiah.
   --He cannot deliver you.
   --Yahweh cannot deliver you.

Offer of “help” from Assyria to the people
   ++give us a present
   ++relax and enjoy life here in Judah for now
   ++We will remove you to another land like yours

Rabshakeh reiterates his argument:
   --Yahweh cannot deliver you
   --No god has delivered its nation from
       the hand of the King of Assyria

The Jewish people’s response :21-22
   The common people “held their peace, and
       answered him not a word”
   The Jewish officials, in mourning, reported the
       words of the Rabshakeh to Hezekiah
I. Yahweh’s work in the life of His nation 36-37  
B. Isaiah 37  
   Judah’s Response  
   :1-4 Hezekiah, in mourning, seeks Yahweh’s help  
   :5-7 Isaiah assures deliverance by Yahweh  
   :8-13 Assyrian messengers return with same speech in a letter  
   :14-20 Hezekiah trusts in Yahweh: his prayer (see separate page)  
   :21-35 Yahweh answers Hezekiah’s prayer in word  
      Indictment of Assyria: you have blasphemed Me, the Holy One of Israel :22-25  
      Correcting Assyrian pride: “I have brought it to pass.”  
      Summary of deliverance: I will turn you back :28  
      The time frame involved :30  
      Specific promises—neutralizing Assyrian threat  
   :36-38 Yahweh answers Hezekiah’s prayer in deed  
      The Angel of Yahweh killed 185k Assyrians in 1 night! Sennacherib “went away”; later was killed by two of his own sons.
The Prayer of Hezekiah  Isaiah 37:14-20

NB: Hezekiah prayed this while in an attitude of mourning, dependence and repentance. Note also, he went to the LORD first, not to advisors.

Addressing God :16
O Yahweh of hosts--
God of Israel--
Who dwells between the cherubim--
You are God, You alone--
You have made heaven and earth--

Requesting an audience :17a

Explaining the problem :17b-19
--the enemy’s blasphemous intention
--the enemy’s mighty power

Seeking the LORD’s deliverance :20a
stated simply and directly

Affirming his motive :20b
II. Yahweh's work in the life of His child  38-39

A. Isaiah 38  Hezekiah's illness and recovery

:1  The dying king is told “set your house in order”

:2-3  Hezekiah prays

:4-8  The LORD’s reply
       --gracious
       --miraculous

:9-20  Hezekiah’s psalm of thanksgiving

:21-22  Explanatory notes
II. Yahweh's work in the life of His child  38-39

B. Isaiah 39  Hezekiah & Babylonian envoys

*Note II Chronicles 32:22-23*

:1  The son of the Babylonian king sent letters and a present to Hezekiah following his recovery from illness

:2  Naive hospitality (mixed with pride?)
   *Note the need to apply theological truths to actual life circumstances.*

:3-7  Isaiah's inquiry and prophecy

:8  Hezekiah's curious response
Some significant events in Hezekiah’s life

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<td>Anointed King</td>
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<td><em>II Kings 18:1-2</em></td>
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<td>Assyrian Captivity of northern tribes</td>
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<td><em>II Kings 18:10</em></td>
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<td>Sennacherib conquered all the fortified cities</td>
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<td>of Judah, and approached Jerusalem</td>
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<td><em>(He was repelled by Yahweh, and returned to his own land.)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Isaiah 36:1, II Kings 18:13f</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Set your house in order&quot;</td>
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<td><em>Isaiah 38:1</em></td>
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<td>Death</td>
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The Destruction of Sennacherib
Lord Byron

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
   And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
   When the blue waves roll nightly on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when Summer is green,
   That host with their banners at sunset were seen;
Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath blown,
   That host on the morrow lay wither’d and strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast,
   And breathed in the face of the foe as he pass’d;
And the eyes of the sleepers wax’d deadly and chill,
   And their hearts but once heaved, and forever grew still!

And there lay the steed with his nostrils all wide,
   But through it there roll’d not the breath of his pride:
And the foam of his gasping lay white on the turf,
   And cold as the spray of the rock-beating surf.

And there lay the rider distorted and pale,
   With the dew on his brow and the rust on his mail;
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,
   The lances uplifted, the trumpet unblown.

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail,
   And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal;
And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword,
   Hath melted like snow in the blast of the Lord!