

ISAIAH

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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 prophesies Babylonian captivity

The Assyrian Invasion

Isaiah 36–39

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

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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

<u>Event</u>	<u>Age</u>
Birth	0
Anointed King <i>II Kings 18:1-2</i>	25
Assyrian Captivity of northern tribes <i>II Kings 18:10</i>	31
Sennacherib conquered all the fortified cities of Judah, and approached Jerusalem (He was repelled by Yahweh, and returned to his own land.) <i>Isaiah 36:1, II Kings 18:13f</i>	39
“Set your house in order” <i>Isaiah 38:1</i>	39
Death <i>II Kings 18:2</i>	54

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!*