

Isaiah 37:1-38 **Sennacherib's Threat – God's Assurance**

Hezekiah's Message to Isaiah (2 Kings 19:1-7)

1 And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord.

2 Then he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz. 3 And they said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah: 'This day is a day of trouble and rebuke and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but 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 reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the Lord your God has heard. Therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.'" 5 So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah.

Isaiah's Response from Yahweh

6 And Isaiah said to them, "Thus you shall say to your master, 'Thus says the Lord: "Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.

7 Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.'"

Sennacherib's Second Threat and Hezekiah's Prayer (2 Kings 19:8-19)

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

9 And the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, "He has come out to make war with you." So when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, 10 "Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying: 'Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, "Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria."

11 Look! You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by utterly destroying them; and shall you be delivered?

12 Have the gods of the nations delivered those whom my fathers have destroyed, Gozan and Haran and Rezep, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? 13 Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah?"

Hezekiah's Prayer

14 And 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 Then Hezekiah prayed to the Lord, saying:

16 "O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are 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 reproach the living God.

18 Truly, 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 not gods, but the work of men's hands — wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them.

20 Now therefore, O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may

know that You are the Lord, You alone."

The Word of the Lord Concerning Sennacherib (2 Kings 19:20-34)

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

"The virgin, the daughter of Zion, Has despised you, laughed you to scorn; The daughter of Jerusalem Has shaken her head behind your back!

23 "Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice, And lifted up your eyes on high? Against the Holy One of Israel.

24 By your servants you have reproached the Lord, And said, 'By the multitude of my chariots I have come up to the height of the mountains, To the limits of Lebanon; I will cut down its tall cedars And its choice cypress trees; I will enter its farthest height, To its fruitful forest. 25 I have dug and drunk water, And with the soles of my feet I have dried up All the brooks of defense.'

26 "Did you not hear long ago How I made it, From ancient times that I formed it? Now I have brought it to pass, That you should be For crushing fortified cities into heaps of ruins.

27 Therefore their inhabitants had little power; They were dismayed and confounded; They were as the grass of the field And the green herb, As the grass on the housetops And grain blighted before it is grown.

28 "But I know your dwelling place, Your going out and your coming in, And your rage against Me.

29 Because your rage against Me and your tumult Have come up to My ears, Therefore I will put My hook in your nose And My bridle in your lips, And I will turn you back By the way which you came."

Sign to Hezekiah that the message from God is true

30 "This shall be a sign to you:

You shall eat this year such as grows of itself, And the second year what springs from the same; Also in the third year sow and reap, Plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them.

31 And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward, And bear fruit upward.

32 For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, And those who escape from Mount Zion. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Answer concerning the king of Assyria

33 "Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria:

'He shall not come into this city, Nor shoot an arrow there, Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it.

34 By the way that he came, By the same shall he return; And he shall not come into this city,' Says the Lord.

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

Sennacherib's Defeat and Death (2 Kings 19:35-37)

36 Then the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses — all dead.

37 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh.

38 Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

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Facts Revealed:

Hezekiah's Message to Isaiah (2 Kings 19:1-7)

✧ And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord.

Then he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz. And they said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah: 'This day is a day of trouble and rebuke and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but there is no strength to bring them forth.

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 reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the Lord your God has heard. Therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.'"

So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah. [\[Isaiah 37:1-5\]](#)

Isaiah's Response from Yahweh

✧ And Isaiah said to them, "Thus you shall say to your master, 'Thus says the Lord: "Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.

Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.'"

✧ God is well aware of human actions and attitudes.

✧ Sennacherib's attitude was one of Arrogant pride against the God of Israel.

✧ Hezekiah's attitude was that of a humble servant seeking help in the face of overwhelming threat of the enemy.

✧ God sent word that He was well aware of the blasphemy of Sennacherib and the threat of danger was void in His hand.

Sennacherib's Second Threat and Hezekiah's Prayer (2 Kings 19:8-19)

✧ Then the Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah, for he heard that he had departed from Lachish.

And the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, "He has come out to make war with you." So when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying: 'Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, "Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria."

Look! You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by utterly destroying them; and shall you be delivered?

Have the gods of the nations delivered those whom my fathers have destroyed, Gozan and Haran and Rezep, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah?" [\[Isaiah 37:8-13\]](#)

✧ In his arrogance, Sennacherib continued to Blaspheme the God of Israel by comparing Him to all the pagan idols of the other lands the Assyrians had conquered.

Hezekiah's Prayer

✧ And 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.

Then Hezekiah prayed to the Lord, saying:

"O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

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 reproach the living God.

Truly, Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands, and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands — wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them.

Now therefore, O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord, You alone." [\[Isaiah 37:14-20\]](#)

✧ To Hezekiah, this letter represented the height of arrogant blasphemy even though the part of the defeat of all the nations was known to be true.

✧ All that was needed was to spread the letter out before Yahweh, confess his confidence that the God of Israel is the only living God, admit the history of conquests by the Assyrians to be true, and their idols were the reason their gods could not help them.

✧ Then he made his request for Yahweh Eloheynu to deliver them with the purpose he knew God accepted, that the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are Yahweh, You alone.

✧ Yahweh holds His reputation of very High esteem.

✧ Every time God steps in to demonstrate His divine power it is so that the world will know that He is the only true living God.

The Word of the Lord Concerning Sennacherib (2 Kings 19:20-34)

✧ Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, this is the word which the Lord has spoken concerning him:

"The virgin, the daughter of Zion, Has despised you, laughed you to scorn; The daughter of Jerusalem Has shaken her head behind your back!

"Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice, And lifted up your eyes on high? Against the Holy One of Israel.

By your servants you have reproached the Lord, And said, 'By the multitude of my chariots I have come up to the height of the mountains, To the limits of Lebanon; I will cut down its tall cedars And its choice cypress trees; I will enter its farthest height, To its fruitful forest. I have dug and drunk water, And with the soles of my feet I have dried up All the brooks of defense.'

"Did you not hear long ago How I made it, From ancient times that I formed it? Now I have brought it to pass, That you should be For crushing fortified cities into heaps of ruins.

Therefore their inhabitants had little power; They were dismayed and confounded; They were as the grass of the field And the green herb, As the grass on the housetops And grain blighted before it is grown.

"But I know your dwelling place, Your going out and your coming in, And your rage against Me.

Because your rage against Me and your tumult Have come up to My ears, Therefore I will put My hook in your nose And My bridle in your lips, And I will turn you back By the way which you came." [Isaiah 37:21-29]

✧ Because Hezekiah prayed, the Lord will take action against the king of Assyria.

✧ Because of the arrogant pride of the king of Assyria, the Lord will take action against Sennacherib.

✧ The nations the kings of Assyria had been able to destroy is because The Lord had delivered them into the hand of Assyria and their idols were of no value and the people had little power but were dismayed and confounded.

✧ Yahweh knows all about the king of Assyria and his blasphemy against the Lord, therefore Yahweh will put a hook in his nose, a bridle in his lips, and send him back by the way he came as Yahweh defends Jerusalem.

✧ The works of Yahweh have been well known from long ago and the Assyrians should have been well aware of the fact that El Shaday has power to defeat any power on earth including themselves.

Sign to Hezekiah that the message from God is true

✧ "This shall be a sign to you (Hezekiah):

You shall eat this year such as grows of itself, And the second year what springs from the same; Also in the third year sow and reap, Plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them.

And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward, And bear fruit upward.

For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, And those who escape from Mount Zion. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. [Isaiah 37:30-32]

✧ The kingdom of Hezekiah will know that they have been delivered when they have found themselves living without Assyrian oppression.

✧ Yet as always, after great trouble, only a remnant survives to enjoy the results of God's deliverance.

Yahweh's answer concerning the king of Assyria

✧ "Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria:

'He shall not come into this city, Nor shoot an arrow there, Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it.

By the way that he came, By the same shall he return; And he shall not come into this city,' Says the Lord.

'For I will defend this city, to save it **For My own sake and for My servant David's sake.**' [Isaiah 37:33-35]

✧ God's reputation is at stake and for His good Name, God will act to preserve it.

Sennacherib's Defeat and Death (2 Kings 19:35-37)

✧ Then the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses — all dead.

So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh.

Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place. [Isaiah 37:36-38]

✧ Yahweh's reputation is preserved. The enemy's pride is reprovved.