

## *CRISIS, PRAYER AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD* Isaiah 36-37

### **I. Historical Background: Reformation and Revival Under Hezekiah**

The reign of Hezekiah (2 Kings 17:1-20:21; 2 Chron. 29:1-32:33)

- A. Hezekiah's family tree and political and spiritual inheritance
  - 1. His father Ahaz (2 Chron. 28:27)  
An apostate - 2 Kings 16:2-4  
The Lord dealt with him through Isaiah - Isa. 7  
He is dishonored in his death - 2 Chron. 28:27
  - 2. The fall of Israel in 722 BC  
2 Kings 17:7-18
  - 3. An apostate Judah  
2 Kings 17:19; 2 Chron. 28:22-25
- B. Hezekiah's character (2 Chron. 29:1-2)
  - 1. His mother's name
  - 2. His grandfather's name
  - 3. Following in David's footsteps  
\*the shaping influences on Hezekiah
- C. Reformation and Revival  
(The spiritual climate of his day)
  - 1. He restores and re-opens the Temple (2 Chron. 29:3-4)
  - 2. He restores the priesthood (29:5)
  - 3. He begins the process of true repentance (29:6-11)
    - a. Confesses the apostasy (6-7)
    - b. Acknowledges the LORD's wrath (8-9)
    - c. Re-establishes covenant with God (10)
    - d. Commissions the priests (11)
  - 4. Restores worship beginning with atonement (29:20-24)
  - 5. Restores worship in songs of praise (29:25-30)

6. The assembly responds [i.e., revived] (29:31-36)
  - a. God prepared it
  - b. It came about suddenly
7. Restores Passover (30:1-27)
  - a. A true missionary endeavor (30:1,5-11)
  - b. A sovereign work of grace (30:12)
  - c. Flexibility and preparation (30:18-20)
  - d. Great joy (30:26-27)
8. Widespread repentance among the people (31:1)
9. The ministry is restored (31:2-19)
  - a. Their office: the priests and Levites (2)
  - b. Their function: Biblical worship and preaching (3-4)
  - c. Their support: Giving (5-19)
10. Summary statement (31:20-21)
  - a. Worship
  - b. Word
  - c. Heart

\*a great work of God precedes the coming crisis!

## **II. The Crisis Begins: Judah Invaded (Isa. 36:1-20; cf. 2 Ch. 32:1-23)** (Not everything goes great when revival comes and one's heart is right!)

- A. God's Enemy's Anti-Faith Speech (36:1-10)
  1. Assyrian seizure and a harvest of unbelief? (1-3; 7:3)
  2. Undermining confidence: first Egypt (4-6)
    - \*the heathen does understand politics
  3. Undermining confidence: second God (7)
    - \*the heathen simply does not understand theology
  4. Replacing confidence: God told me so (8-10)
- B. God's Enemy's Rodney King Speech (36:11-20)
  1. The political game and arrogant threat (11-12)
  2. Undermine leadership: Hezekiah is the real enemy! (13-15)
  3. The grand promise: peace then prosperity (16-17)
  4. Rabshakeh's blasphemy (18-20)
    - a. The Assyrian pride (10:7-14)

- b. The gods (including yours) are no match!
- C. The crux of the crisis: Would the people follow the way of the LORD?
  - 1. Isaiah's message: faith versus unbelief/faith v.s. sight
  - 2. The crisis revolves around the lies of the enemy
  - 3. The crisis follows the years of spiritual health and vigor

### **III. The Day of Distress and Prayer (36:21-37:20)**

### **IV. God Answers in Word and Deed (37:21-37:38)**