

Isaiah 37 - The Lord Defends

v1-5 Hezekiah's proper response

Hezekiah humbly goes to the house of the Lord (v1), in spite of discouragement, trouble and threats. Rather than allow Sennacherib's terror to drive him from the Lord, he used the attack to drive him to the Lord.

He sent his delegation to the prophet Isaiah to inquire of the Lord (v2-5). The prophetic office was the highest office in Israel. Both the priest and the king needed the prophet to hear from the Lord.

v6-7 The Lord encourages the king

The Lord gives assurance of ultimate victory and a short period of rest to Jerusalem. Thankfully, hurricanes have an eye, giving time and space for greater repentance.

v8-13 Rabshakeh's threatening letter

When Rabshakeh returned to his king, he learned that Sennacherib had moved the army to Libnah in the Sinai peninsula. The Ethiopians had allied themselves to the Egyptians to ward off the Assyrian invasion. With no army surrounding Jerusalem, Rabshakeh did not want Hezekiah to think that his God had won; so he sent messengers to Jerusalem with the warning, "we'll be back! And your God will be helpless as the gods of the nations. We're unbeatable." spir: Great successes often harden sinners' hearts in their wicked ways and make them more daring in evil.

37:14-20 Hezekiah's prayer

When Hezekiah received Sennacherib's letter, he spread it before the Lord. He needed not to make any accusations against the Assyrian king; he allowed Sennacherib's words to speak and betray himself.

spir: This is a great example for us, we have the privilege of access to the throne of grace in time of need. Take and spread your problems before our Lord; *casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you* (1 Pet 5:7).

This is one of the great prayers of scripture:

v16 It exalts and magnifies God.

v17 It pleads for the glory of his name over all.

v18-19 It acknowledges the vanity of false religion and idolatry.

v20 It seeks for the one and only true, God wrought salvation.

v21-35 The Lord answers thru Isaiah

The Lord informs king Hezekiah that Sennacherib had blasphemed the Holy One of Israel. Therefore, the Lord will take up the battle personally. Judah may rest assured that this storm will blow over shortly and not one shot will be fired against his city.

v22 *the virgin* - doct: Israel is the woman, Rev 12:1

hx: here she is before the fullness of time, yet to deliver.

v23 Don't pick a fight with her, because her husband [the Mighty God] may show up.

v25 Assyria ~ *behemoth*, Job 40:23

v26 doct: God uses the enemy at his disposal as pawn servants.

v29 *put my hook in thy nose*, Job 41:2 (v1 *leviathan*) doct: the devil is the power behind Assyria, (refer back to Isa 37:12, 23)

v 32 *remnant..out of Jerusalem*, spir: King James believers are today's remnant

v36-38 The Lord destroys the Assyrian army

The Lord provides immediate accomplishment of this near term prophecy. The next morning the Jews awaken to find their tormentors strewn about the outer walls of the city as dead corpses. Secular history confirms that Sennacherib was murdered by his own sons. The Assyrian empire shortly began to dissolve into disarray. Babylon grew in might and influence and became the next great world empire.

For there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, 1 K 8:56.