

ISAIAH – Chapter 36

NOTE: 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chron. 32:1-23

Vs. 1 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah:

740 B.C. Isaiah begins his ministry.
Isa. 1:1 Uzziah reigned from 791-740 B.C. (Isa. 6:1, Isaiah's call to his prophetic ministry.)

750-731 B.C. Jotham reigns (10 years co-regency). 2 Kings 15:32-38
(Jotham is not mentioned in Isaiah.)

731-715 B.C. Ahaz reigns. 2 Kings 16:1-20

715-695 B.C. Hezekiah reigns.

701 B.C. 39 years into Isaiah's prophetic ministry, 14 years into Hezekiah's reign.

Sennacherib, king of Assyria, moves against Judah. 21 years prior to this (722 B.C.) during the reign of Ahaz, Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, carried Samaria away into captivity. 2 Kings 17:1-18

Assyria meets her undoing! Her pride (Isa. 10:12-16ff) causes God's arm of destruction to come down upon her after His extensive use of her. Isa. 10:5-6

NOTE: Isa. 36:2-22 and 2 Kings 18:13-37 are almost word for word identical.

Vs. 2 Hezekiah meets the representatives of the king of Assyria in the same place that Ahaz met the previous king of Assyria. Isa. 7:3-7ff

Vs. 3 Hezekiah sent Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah out to meet with Rabshakeh, Sennacherib's representatives.

Vs. 4-7 Rabshakeh's message to be taken back to Hezekiah from the King of Assyria:

- 1) What is this confidence that you have? vs. 4
- 2) Your counsel and strength are empty words. vs. 5
- 3) On whom do you rely? vs. 5
 - a) On Egypt and its Pharaoh – a staff that turns out to be nothing more than a crushed reed which will end up hurting the hand that holds it. vs. 6
 - b) In the Lord your God. vs. 7
 - c) Hezekiah is telling you He will surely deliver you. vs. 15

d) He is no more powerful than any of the other gods that Assyria has gone up against. vs. 18-20

Vs. 7 Apparently, Sennacherib had heard of the reforms that Hezekiah had carried out early in his reign! 2 Kings 18:1-6 He and his commander did not understand the meaning behind Hezekiah's acts. He may have thought that Hezekiah was no longer depending on God since he had reduced the altars to one in Jerusalem.

Vs. 8-9 In taunt, an offer is made. Assyria will give Judah 2,000 horses if Judah can find 2,000 riders to put upon them.

If they can find the riders, the least of Sennacherib's servants will be able to defeat them single handedly and the chariots of Egypt will be of no help either.

Vs. 10 Saying it doesn't make it so!! Is Rabshakeh telling the truth? Isa. 10:24-25

Vs. 11-13 Damage control! The commander of Assyria says forget it...we will lay such a seize that those living in Judah will be forced to eat and drink their own body waste.

Vs. 14-15 Rabshakeh's warning to the people of Judah:

- 1) Do not let Hezekiah deceive you.
- 2) Hezekiah will not be able to deliver you.
- 3) The God of Israel will not be able to deliver you. No one, nothing, can stop the city of Jerusalem from falling to the Assyrians.

Vs. 16-17 Don't listen to King Hezekiah.

Listen to the King of Assyria!

Forget God – trust me...everything will be fine.

Vs. 18-20 Again, forget the God of Israel, He is powerless! He was not able to stop Assyria from carrying off Samaria and re-populating their land with other people. What makes the population of Judah think that the same God, who was powerless in Samaria's case, can stop Assyria from taking Judah? (Remember Isa. 7:8-9)

Vs. 21-22 The people's response to Rabshakeh's message followed by King Hezekiah's (37:1-4).