

ISAIAH – Chapter 37

Vs. 1-4 King Hezekiah's response to his envoys who brought Rabshakeh's message to the people back to him:

- 1) He tore his clothes.
- 2) Covered himself with sackcloth. (Kneel?)
- 3) Entered the house of the Lord. 2 Chron. 6:1-7:11; 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:16-20
- 4) Sent for Isaiah the prophet, taking a message from Hezekiah to Isaiah.
 - a) inform Isaiah of the situation (used the same imagery that Isaiah had used with them, Isa. 26:17-18).
 - b) find out if the God of Israel might have a word for them – expecting it to come by means of Isaiah. (Opposite of Ahaz's approach, chapter 7.)
 - c) request that Isaiah pray for the nation.

CONTRASTS BETWEEN NOW AND THEN:

- I. Not the way its done today!
1 Pet. 2:5, 9-10
 - 1) offer up spiritual sacrifices.
 - 2) proclaim His excellences, Heb. 4:16.
 - 3) draw near/receive...find.
Heb. 10:19-23 (Therefore)
- II. Access to God. All verses come from the book of Hebrew.
 - 1) provided through Christ's sacrifice, 10:19 (Therefore, by the blood of Jesus.)
 - 2) Jesus has entered the sanctuary ahead of us as the forerunner of us, 6:20.
 - 3) He serves there as our high Priest in God's presence, 4:14, 16.
 - 4) He provides us ongoing care, 2:18; 13:5-6.

- 5) Believers:
 - a) possess gifts of the Holy Spirit, 2:4.
 - b) experience the powers of the age to come, 6:5 (careful) 2 Cor. 12-14
 - c) have God's law written on their heart, 8:10; 10:16.
 - d) have the certainty of God's promise written on their heart, 6:17-18 (heirs of the promise, Rom. 4:13-16.)
 - e) are set free from the fear of death, 2:14-15.
 - f) are purified from dead works, 9:14.
 - g) are provided encouragement from Christ and others, 12:1-3; 13:7; 10:24-25.
 - h) are to exercise faith, 10:39; 11:6.
 - i) are to rely on God's grace, 13:9.
 - j) are to trust that the God who raised Jesus from the dead will equip them to do His will, 13:20-21.

Vs. 5 That which Hezekiah had commanded was done!

Vs. 6-7 Isaiah's "word from the Lord" that was to be taken back to Israel: (today, Rom. 3:2; Heb. 5:12; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)

- 1) Do not be afraid.
- 2) The king of Assyria has blasphemed the God of Israel, which far outweighs any threats that he has directed at the nation.
- 3) God will turn the king of Assyria away.
 - a) putting a spirit in him causing him to believe and respond in a specific way.
 - b) disposing of him in his own land.

Vs. 8-9(a) Sennacherib, in the time covering the above exchanges, left Lachish and went to Libnah (5 miles north of Lachish). Tirhakah, king of Cush (Egypt-Isa. 18:1-7), had come to assist Judah (Isa. 36:6) in her fight against Assyria.

Vs. 9(b)-13 The king of Assyria sends further warnings to Hezekiah:

- 1) Don't let your God in whom you trust deceive you.

- 2) Remember:
 - a) no other nation has been able to stand before Assyria – we have destroyed them all! (different from his first assurance, Isa. 36:16-17.)
 - b) what chance do you have?

- 3) Did the gods of those nations deliver them?
 - a) Gozan – 2 Kings 17:6; 18:11; 1 Chron. 5:26
 - b) Haran
 - c) Rezepth
 - d) sons of Eden in Telassar
 - e) Hanath
 - f) Arpad
 - g) Sepharvaim
 - h) Hena
 - i) Ivvah

Vs. 14 Hezekiah read “the great kings” letter and went right back to the house of Israel’s God and laid it out before him – Isa. 37:6 – listen to what he is saying!

Verse 15 to 20 – Hezekiah’s prayer.

Vs. 15-16 The prayer begins with praise.

O Lord of Hosts
 The God of Israel – I will be their God, they shall be my people, 2 Cor. 6:14-18
 Who is enthroned above the cherubim, 2 Sam. 6:2
 You are the God
 You alone, Phil. 2:10-11
 (God) of all the kingdoms of the earth
 You are the creator, John 1:1-10; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:1-3

Vs. 17-20 Moves on to the request.

Listen and see – this is not about us, but about you, vs. 17.

That which Sennacherib has said is true, as far as his understanding goes, vs. 18-19.

Deliver us that all the kingdoms of the earth may know –
YOU ALONE ARE GOD!!!

Vs. 21 God sends word back to Hezekiah by the mouth of Isaiah that He has heard the prayer and...

Vs. 22-29 This is the message that God has spoken against Sennacherib:

- 1) Assyria has despised and mocked the nation of Israel, vs. 22.
- 2) Assyria has reproached and blasphemed, raised their voice and haughtily lifted up their eyes against the God of Israel, vs. 23.
- 3) “I” and “my” occur seven times, vs. 24-25.

Doesn't Sennacherib know, vs. 26?

- a) God is the one who has done whatever Sennacherib has done.
- b) God is the one who planned it all.
- c) He is the one who has brought it to pass.
- d) All Assyria's victories have been God's victories.

It is the God of Israel, the God of all the kingdoms of the earth that has produced these results, vs. 27.

Nothing, nothing that Assyria has accomplished or done is outside the control and plan of the God of Israel, vs. 28.

Because...therefore, vs. 29.

Verse 30 to 35 – So much for Assyria...God has a plan for His people Israel (more specifically, Judah in this context).

Vs. 30 God's word to Hezekiah:

- 1) You have two difficult years ahead of you while you get your crops producing normally.
- 2) In the third year, it will be as if nothing ever stopped.

Vs. 31 The surviving remnant of Judah will grow into a rightly related people of God.

Vs. 32 Jerusalem – Mount Zion – will be the source of the survivors who will be re-established.

It is God's zeal and nothing else that will cause this outcome, Isa. 34:8.

Vs. 33 Therefore, because of God's plan for Judah and its people, this is the experience God has planned for the King of Assyria.

- 1) The King of Assyria will not enter Jerusalem.

2) He will not be close enough to the city to shoot an arrow in to it.

3) He will not be able to build a siege ramp against its walls.

Vs. 34

4) He will return to Assyria having not touched God's city.

Vs. 35 All of the above will happen because God will defend Jerusalem.

1) For His own sake...in answer to Hezekiah's prayer, Isa. 37:17-20.

2) For David's sake.

Vs. 36 One of the rare times when God carries out His judgment without the involvement of men.

The king of Assyria has apparently "rated" a special judgment, first his army.

Question: Is the angel of the Lord the pre-incarnate Christ?

Vs. 37-38 Then himself.

Historical note: Sennacherib was assassinated 20 years later (681 B.C.) by the two of his sons.

Esarhaddon follows Sennacherib as king of Assyria, an empire that will be destroyed in about 76 years, when Nebuchadnezer's father Nabopolassar begins their destruction.