

Isaiah 37

King James Version (KJV)

37 And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. (It's about time that Hezekiah consults God. Earlier, he had sought help from the Egyptians first, and they let him down)

²And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests covered with sackcloth, unto Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz. (Now that they are stuck and in a bind, they go see a prophet. It must have been insulting to God to see these guys come back and beg for help, after having ignored God for years)

(But our God is longsuffering and has great mercy. HE is immensely patient with us; because of our tendency to be self absorbed idiots) see Numbers-14:18, 2Peter-3:9

³And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and of blasphemy: for the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth. (This is a metaphor for a woman about to give birth, but she is lacking the strength to deliver the baby)

(This is prophecy. It really applies to the end of this Age. There won't seem to be enough strength left in the world to bring forth a new Age – the Millennium. Antichrist will have deceived the whole world into submission. They will be worshipping him)

(Jesus Christ will bring in that new Age. God is almighty. HIS power never lacks; regardless of the strength and numbers of the enemy)

⁴It may be the LORD thy God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God, and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that is left. (Isn't Yahoveh also their God?)

Isaiah-10:5-6 (the LORD thy God – instead of the LORD our God; that says it all)

(They are real quick at pointing out the blasphemy of the Assyrians; yet they didn't say anything about their own idolatry. God sent the

Assyrians to chastise Israel because they deserted Him in favor of heathen idols and false doctrines)

⁵ So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah.

⁶ And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say unto your master, Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words that thou hast heard, wherewith the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. (The Assyrians stepped over the line in blaspheming God. It is lucky for Judah that our God is a forgiving and merciful God)

(God will save Judah from the Assyrians. HE will teach the Assyrians a valuable lesson in the process; in the sight of the Israelites that they just threatened. Don't blaspheme Almighty God)

⁷ Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land. (No army is too powerful for God to deal with) see verse-36

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

⁹ And he heard say concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, He is come forth to make war with thee. And when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, (This is not what the Assyrians need. They would be facing two different enemies at the same time - Judah and Ethiopia)

(Now, he's going to make up some excuse to delay in taking over Judah; so he doesn't look vulnerable. The truth is that he can't face two armies at the same time, and he knows it)

¹⁰ Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God, in whom thou trustest, deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. (This is more blasphemy of God, from the king of Assyria. God doesn't deceive anyone. What God says will happen. We can always count on that)

¹¹ Behold, thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by destroying them utterly; and shalt thou be delivered? (The Assyrians had defeated every country that they fought. But of course, those countries didn't have God's protection. Judah has regained God's mercy; and therefore, His protection)

¹² Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed, as Gozan, and Haran, and Rezeph, and the children of Eden which were in Telassar? (None of these countries worshipped Yahoveh. They worshipped idols)

¹³ Where is the king of Hamath, and the king of Arphad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? (They were all defeated)

¹⁴ And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up unto the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. (Finally, Hezekiah wises up. He is asking God for His mercy and for His help)

¹⁵ And Hezekiah prayed unto the LORD, saying, (Maybe he'll finally get it right this time)

¹⁶ O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

¹⁷ Incline thine ear, O LORD, and hear; open thine eyes, O LORD, and see: and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God. (Hezekiah is offering the Assyrian's own words in order to ask God for help)

¹⁸ Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations, and their countries, (He has in fact defeated all of the nations stated in his letter)

¹⁹ And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them. (The idol gods of these cities couldn't save them. They are just inanimate objects. They are no gods. There is no life in them)

NOTE: (The idols of today are fame, money and power. Fools will sell their souls in order to get them)

²⁰ Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only. (Hezekiah knows that Judah doesn't deserve to be saved. They had turned their backs on God and were worshipping idols. He is asking for God's grace – His unmerited favor. God is merciful. HE will hear Hezekiah)

NOTE: (It is pathetic how people only remember God when they are in trouble. As soon as the trouble is over, they go back to their idolatry)

²¹ Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent unto Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Whereas thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria:

²² This is the word which the LORD hath spoken concerning him; The virgin, the daughter of Zion, hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee. (God laughs at the threat of the Assyrians. HE sent them to correct Judah, not to blaspheme Him. God is letting Hezekiah know that He doesn't fear the Assyrians in the least. HE will end them)

²³ Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel. (Judgment on Assyria is coming)

²⁴ By thy servants hast thou reproached the Lord, and hast said, By the multitude of my chariots am I come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon; and I will cut down the tall cedars thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the height of his border, and the forest of his Carmel. (his Carmel = his garden, his paradise) (This was all big talk by the Assyrian king. His ego needs to be reigned in – and it will be)

²⁵ I have digged, and drunk water; and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of the besieged places. (The Assyrian king is bragging – “Look how great I am”)

²⁶ Hast thou not heard long ago, how I have done it; and of ancient times, that I have formed it? now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldest be to lay waste defenced cities into ruinous heaps. (God speaking back to the Assyrians – HE created all that we see. HE will do with it as He pleases, and no man can stop Him)

²⁷ Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded: they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up. (It was God who gave the Assyrians their victories. They didn't do it by themselves)

²⁸ But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me. (God knows everything about this king)

²⁹ Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest. (God's judgment is coming to the king of Assyria)

Future: (Assyria is a type for antichrist and his armies. God will turn them around just as easily as He turned this Assyrian king back)

³⁰ And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such as groweth of itself; and the second year that which springeth of the same: and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof. (3½ years; the people of Judah will do just fine and have plenty to eat; after God turns the Assyrians back to where they came from)

NOTE: (3 ½ years was originally the time of antichrist as well. Jesus later reduced his time to 5 months – the season of the locust)

³¹ And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward:

(The Assyrians failed to take Judah. It was Babylon who would take them 200 years later)

³² For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this. (God will save them, regardless of what the Assyrians believe)

³³ Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it.

³⁴ By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD.

³⁵ For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. (God did this to teach the heathen nations that there is a true God in heaven. Not because the people of Judah had been so loyal to God; because they hadn't)

³⁶ Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. (God in angelic form destroyed the Assyrian army. HE didn't need an army)

to get it done. 185,000 Assyrian soldiers died in one night for their blasphemy. It was no challenge for God to destroy them)

³⁷ So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. (He went back home in disgrace. His entire army was dead – lesson learned)

³⁸ And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead. (Nisroch - an eagle deity) (Adrammelech = splendor of the king; Sharezer = prince of fire)

(Judgment was passed on Sennacherib - the king of Assyria. His army was destroyed in one night. And he was killed by his own sons. Do not mock God or you will receive His judgment)