

HEZEKIAH SEEKS ISAAH'S COUNSEL AND
PRAYS IN THE TEMPLE (37:1-20)

- Isaiah** **37** And it came to pass when King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth and went into the House of the LORD. ² And he sent Eliakim, who was over the house; Shebna, the scribe; and the elders of the priests, who had covered themselves with sackcloth, to Isaiah, the prophet, son of Amoz. ³ And they said to him,
- Eliakim and Shebna** “Thus says Hezekiah, ‘This day is a day of distress, rebuke, and disgrace because children have come to the point of birth, but there is no strength to give birth. ⁴ Perhaps the LORD your God hears the words of the chief officer, whom the king of Assyria his master has sent to taunt the living God, and the LORD your God will rebuke the words that He has heard. Therefore, may you lift up a prayer for the remnant who remain.’”
- Isaiah** ⁵ And the ministers of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah. ⁶ And Isaiah said to them,
- Isaiah** “Thus, you will say to your master, Thus says the LORD,
- The LORD** ‘Do not be afraid of the words that you have heard, with which the youths of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me. ⁷ Behold, I am putting a spirit in him so that he will hear a rumor and return to his land, and in his land, I will make him fall by the sword.’”
- Isaiah** ⁸ The chief officer returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that he had left Lachish. ⁹ And he heard about Tirhakah, king of Cush saying, “He has gone forth to war with you.” And he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,
- Chief officer** ¹⁰ “Thus you will say to Hezekiah, king of Judah, saying, ‘Do not let your God, who you trust, deceive you by saying, Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. ¹¹ Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all of the countries, completely destroying them, and you will be delivered? ¹² Have the gods delivered the nations that my fathers destroyed—Gozen, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? ¹³ Where is the king of Hamath, and the king of Arpad, and the kings of the cities of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?’”

Isaiah ¹⁴ And Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the House of the LORD and spread it before the LORD. ¹⁵ And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, saying,

Hezekiah ¹⁶ “O LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, enthroned on the cherubim, You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the earth; You have made the heavens and the earth. ¹⁷ Extend Your ear, O LORD, and hear. Open Your eyes, O LORD, and see. And hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to taunt the living God. ¹⁸ Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have destroyed all the nations and their lands ¹⁹ and have placed their gods into the fire; they have destroyed them because they were not gods, but the work of the hands of a human—wood and stone. ²⁰ And now, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone are the LORD.”

THE LORD RESPONDS—SENNACHERIB WILL FALL (37:21–38)

Isaiah ²¹ Then Isaiah, the son of Amoz, sent to Hezekiah saying, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘of which you prayed to Me about Sennacherib, the king of Assyria,’ ²² This is the word that the LORD has spoken concerning him:

The LORD “The virgin Daughter of Zion, she scorns you! She mocks you! The Daughter of Jerusalem, she wags her head behind your back.

²³ Whom have you taunted and blasphemed?
Against whom have you raised your voice
and lifted your eyes up high? Against the Holy One of Israel!

²⁴ You have taunted the Lord by the hand of your servants. And you said,

Sennacherib ‘With my many chariots I have gone up to the heights of the mountains, to the far parts of Lebanon. And I cut down its tall cedars and its choicest cypresses. I came to its remotest height, its most fruitful forest. ²⁵ I dug wells and drank the water of foreigners. ¹⁴⁶ I dried up all the streams of Egypt with the sole of my foot.’

The LORD ²⁶ Have you not heard long ago
that which I have done from days of old?

146. This reading comes from DSS Isaiah and the parallel passage of 2 Kings 19:24.

The LORD I fashioned it; I brought it to pass—
that you should make fortified cities desolate, into heaps,
to be destroyed.

²⁷ And their inhabitants are short of power;
they are dismayed and confounded.

and have become grass of the field,
and the green herb,

grass on the rooftops
and a field before an east wind¹⁴⁷.

²⁸ I know your standing up¹⁴⁸, and your sitting,
and your going out, and your coming in, and your rage
against Me.

²⁹ Because of your raging against Me,
and your arrogance has come to My ears,

I will put My hook in your nose
and My bit in your lips,
and I will turn you back by the way that you came.”

³⁰ And this is the sign for you:
Eat what grows of itself this year,
and in the second year what springs of the same,
but in the third year, sow and reap
and plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

³¹ And the remnant of the house of Judah will again take
root below
and bear fruit above.

³² For out of Jerusalem will go forth a remnant,
and they that escape [from Jerusalem will come upon]¹⁴⁹
Mount Zion.

Isaiah The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will do this.

³³ Therefore, thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria,

The LORD “He will not come into this city,
or shoot an arrow there,

147. Reading from DSS Isaiah.

148. From DSS Isaiah.

149. Bracketed words in this section are from the JST.

or come before it with a shield,
or cast up a siege-ramp against it.

³⁴By the way that he came, he will return.
And he will not come into this city,”

Isaiah declares the LORD.

The LORD ³⁵“I will defend this city, to save it for My own sake
and for the sake of David, My servant.”

Isaiah ³⁶And the angel of the LORD went forth and slew a hundred
and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. And when they
[who were left] arose early in the morning, behold, they were
all dead corpses. ³⁷And Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, trav-
eled and returned and dwelt at Nineveh. ³⁸And as he was wor-
shipping in the house [temple] of Nisroch, his god, his sons,
Adrammelech and Sharezer, slew him with the sword. And they
escaped into the land of Armenia. Then Esarhaddon, his son,
reigned in his stead.

KING HEZEKIAH'S SICKNESS (38:1-8)

Isaiah **38** In those days Hezekiah became sick to the point of death.
Isaiah, the prophet, the son of Amoz, came to him and
said to him, “Thus says the LORD,

The LORD “Set your house in order, because you are about die; and you will
not live.”

Isaiah ²Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the
LORD. ³And he said,

Hezekiah “Please, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before you
in truth and with a whole heart, and I have done what is good
in your sight.”

Isaiah And Hezekiah wept bitterly. ⁴And the word of the LORD came
to Isaiah, saying,

The LORD ⁵“Go and say to Hezekiah, “Thus says the LORD, the God of
David your father, I have heard your prayer. I have seen your
tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your days. ⁶And I will
deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria,
and I will defend this city.”

Isaiah ⁷And this is the sign to you from the LORD that the LORD will do
this thing concerning which He has spoken: