

Theme: Those who trust God and His Word will find His deliverance and protection, while those who defiantly reject it will fall.

I. Intro – Historical Interlude

- A. We will now return to last half of Isaiah
- B. We begin with the historical hinge of Isaiah 36-38
- C. Closes 1st half, prepares for 2nd half
- D. Hezekiah's faith & folly central in these chapters

II. Deja Vu - History Repeating Itself

- A. The historical situation (Assyrian annals/ 2 Ki 18)
 - 1. Sennacherib starts ruling in 705 BC
 - 2. Hezekiah revolts
 - 3. Sennacherib strikes 701 (Is 36:1)
 - 4. Hezekiah's initial failure (2 Kings 18:13-16)
- B. Note the similarity with Isaiah 7
 - 1. Foreign kings marching against Judah w/ success
 - 2. Key meeting at Aqueduct of Upper Pool at Washerman's field
 - 3. Isaiah commands Ahaz & Hezekiah not to fear

III. Assyria, Judah, and Yahweh

- A. Assyrian official comes to Jerusalem (36:2)
- B. Message of official - surrender - 4 reasons
 - 1. Egypt no help (36:4-6) - true, already defeated

2. Yahweh angry (36:7,10) - true in past

3. Assyrian might (36:8-9) - true

4. Relief from war difficulties (36:16-17) - true but bad

5. Yahweh can't help (36:18-20) - FALSE!!!

C. Hezekiah's Response & God's Word

1. Hezekiah - humbly seeks God (37:1)

2. Seeks God's help from Isaiah (37:2-4)

3. God's Word - I will deal with him (37:5-7)

D. The plot thickens

1. Sennacherib moves - help from Egypt? (37:8-9)

2. Sennacherib's taunt (37:10)

IV. Hezekiah's Faith & Yahweh's Response

A. Prayer of faith (37:16-17) - its about God

B. Prayer of faith (37:18-19) - facts & false gods

C. Request - deliver us for your Names sake (37:20)

D. God's Word to Sennacherib (37:28-29)

E. God's promise to Hezekiah & Judah (37:33-35)

F. God strikes down Assyrian army (37:36-37)

G. Sennacherib struck down (37:38)

V. Applying the Word

A. Do we see the three ways of living shown?

1. Tale of 3 kings - Assyrian, Ahaz & Hezekiah

- a. Sennacherib - idolater, proud; taunts God; looks to himself
- b. Ahaz - hypocritical; proud; rebellious to God; looks to Assyria
- c. Hezekiah - pious; humble; submissive to God; looks to God

2. These 3 kings dominated book of Isaiah to now

3. The results

- a. Assyrian king - destruction; note time & place
- b. Ahaz - servitude; problems
- c. Hezekiah - deliverance by God

B. Which king am I like?

1. Assyrian king - self reliant; mocking; idolater

- a. God does not even factor in
- b. Like new atheists, some others
- c. This will end in destruction - turn from this

2. Ahaz

- a. Outward form of faith
- b. But in pinch looks to other sources than God
- c. Does not really trust & obey God when tough
- d. Many Christian like this today - afraid to buck culture

3. Hezekiah

- a. Initially struggled but looked to God

b. Trusted God, took Him at His Word

c. Risked it all on God's faithfulness

C. Communion - Feeding Our Faith in Christ

1. Communion feeds our faith to obey

2. It reminds us of Christ's obedience & death

a. The world mocks this idea

b. We embrace it in faith

3. It strengthens us to respond to life in faith

4. Come eat and drink and be strengthened!

Hezekiah's Faith - Assyria Falling

Isaiah 36-37 (36:1-3)

Hebrews 11:1-6

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Communion

Psalms 20:1-5

In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. 14 So Hezekiah king of Judah sent this message to the king of Assyria at Lachish: "I have done wrong. Withdraw from me, and I will pay whatever you demand of me." The king of Assyria exacted from Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. 15 So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the temple of the LORD and in the treasuries of the royal palace. 16 At this time Hezekiah king of Judah stripped off the gold with which he had covered the doors and doorposts of the temple of the LORD, and gave it to the king of Assyria. 2 Kings 18:13-16