

“The Zeal of the Lord Almighty”

Isaiah 36-37

“For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, out of Mount Zion will come a band of survivors. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this” (31:20)

God’s rescue of Hezekiah and Jerusalem is quite short in 2 Chron. 32:1-23. A fuller version with God’s words of comfort to Hezekiah through Isaiah is found in Isaiah 36-37. Here we see how Hezekiah cried out to the Lord and what he said to God and how God encouraged Him through what He said through Isaiah. Why did God answer Hezekiah’s prayer? Because of Hezekiah’s faith or Isaiah’s, or something else?

THE THREAT – Isaiah 36

According to v.1 what had Sennacherib, king of Assyria accomplished so far?

36:1 “. . . came up against _____ the fortified cities of Judah and _____ them.”

The Assyrians had captured every fortified city coming down the Mediterranean coast, then south to Lachish and now were heading back north to Jerusalem, the capital. Where does Sennacherib’s field commander call out for Hezekiah?

36:2 “. . . at the aqueduct of the upper pool on the _____ of the _____ field.”

Where did God tell Isaiah to go with Ahaz to meet the threat of the king of Aram?

7:3

Ahaz failed to trust God in that same spot and now Hezekiah will have to choose whether he will trust God at this same spot. Rabshakeh asks Hezekiah a question in vv.5-6. On whom did he think Hezekiah was looking to help?

36:6 “_____”

What had Isaiah already said about trusting Egypt for help?

30:1-5

Rabshakeh also warns them not to trust who in v.7?

36:7 “. . . the _____ our God . . .”

He obviously doesn’t know much about God and yet what does he claim in v.10?

36:10 “Furthermore, have I come to attack and destroy this land _____ the LORD? The LORD Himself told me to _____ against this country and _____ it”

He warns the people not to listen to Hezekiah in trusting the Lord. What tempting offer does he make?

36:16 “. . . Make peace with me and come out to me. Then every __ of you will eat from his ____ vine and fig tree and drink water from his ____ cistern.

36:17 “until I come and to take you to a land like your . - a land of _____ and _____ wine, a land of bread and vineyards.”

Then he tries to persuade them that no one else's god as helped so far, so why should their God? But how do the people respond?

36:21 "But the people remained _____ and said _____ In reply because the _____ commanded 'Do not answer him'"

This doesn't mean they didn't take it seriously. How did Hezekiah's 3 top men respond?

36:22 ". . . they went to Hezekiah with their clothes _____ And told him what the field commander had said."

THE RESPONSE – Isaiah 37:1-21

What was Hezekiah's immediate response?

37:1 "When King Hezekiah heard this he _____ his clothes and put on _____ and went into the _____ of the LORD."

37:2 "He sent [his spiritual leaders] . . . to the prophet _____"

He asked them all to pray because . . .

37:4 "It may be that the LORD your God will _____ the words of the field commander, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to _____ the living God and that He will _____ him for the words the LORD your God heard. Therefore pray for the _____ that still survives."

Isaiah reassures Hezekiah and the people not to be afraid. Why? What did God tell him?

37:7 "Listen! I am going to put a _____ spirit in him so that when he hears a certain report he will _____ to his own country and there I will have him _____ down with the sword."

Sure enough Sennacherib hears a report that Egypt is going to attack them. Before he retreats he leaves Hezekiah one more message reminding him that all other gods have been defeated. What does Hezekiah do with this threat?

37:14 _____ the letter and spreads it out before _____

How does Hezekiah pray?

37:16 God is the _____ God enthroned above the earth and rules over all the _____

37:17 I _____ and s _____ what Sennacherib says about You

37:18-19 Fact 'A' – Sennacherib has destroyed all other g _____

Fact 'B' – God is the _____ God,

v.12 "Then they faithfully brought in the contributions, tithes and dedicated gifts. Koniah a Levite was the _____ in charge of these things and his brother Shimei was next in rank. "

*therefore deliver us so that _____ kingdoms on earth will _____ that You alone O LORD, are God."

GOD'S ANSWER – Isaiah 37:22-35

Summarize what God says through Isaiah about Assyria:

vv.22-24a they have i _____ God

vv.24b-25 they b_____ about their conquests

vv.26-27 G_____ allowed you to defeat other nations

vv.28 G_____ knows everything they do

v.29 God will d_____ to them what they had d_____ to their captives

[*see 2 Chron. 33:10-11 for an example of this]

And God has a message for Hezekiah and Judah too. What was it?

37:30 the next _____ years they will eat what grows by itself but the 3rd year will yield _____ and _____

The agricultural growth is also symbolic for spiritual growth.

37:31 "Once more a _____ of the house of Judah will take root _____ and bear fruit _____"

37:32 "For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant and out of Mt. Zion a band of survivors. The _____ of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

God assures Hezekiah through Isaiah that Sennacherib will not enter the city or even build a siege ramp and will return home. Why will God save Jerusalem?

37:35 "I will defend this city and save it for _____ sake and for the sake of _____ My servant."

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