

# Isaiah 36

## Sennacherib invades Judah

In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. <sup>2</sup> And the king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem, with a great army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. <sup>3</sup> And there came out to him Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder.

<sup>4</sup> And the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours?' <sup>5</sup> Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom do you now trust, that you have rebelled against me? <sup>6</sup> Behold, you are trusting in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him. <sup>7</sup> But if you say to me, 'We trust in the LORD our God,' is it not he whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, 'You shall worship before this altar'?" <sup>8</sup> Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them. <sup>9</sup> How then can you repulse a single captain among the least of my master's servants, when you trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? <sup>10</sup> Moreover, is it without the LORD that I have come up against this land to destroy it? The LORD said to me, 'Go up against this land and destroy it.'"

<sup>11</sup> Then Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it. Do not speak to us in the language of Judah within the hearing of the people who are on the wall." <sup>12</sup> But the Rabshakeh said, "Has my master sent me to speak these words to your master and to you, and not to the men sitting on the wall, who are doomed with you to eat their own dung and drink their own urine?"

<sup>13</sup> Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah: "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! <sup>14</sup> Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you. <sup>15</sup> Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD by saying, 'The LORD will surely deliver us. This city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'" <sup>16</sup> Do not listen to Hezekiah. For thus says the king of Assyria: Make your peace with me and come out to me. Then each one of you will eat of his own vine, and each one of his own fig tree, and each one of you will drink the water of his own cistern, <sup>17</sup> until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. <sup>18</sup> Beware lest Hezekiah mislead you by saying, 'The LORD will deliver us.' Has any of the gods of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? <sup>19</sup> Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? <sup>20</sup> Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?"

<sup>21</sup> But they were silent and answered him not a word, for the king's command was, "Do not answer him." <sup>22</sup> Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and told him the words of the Rabshakeh.

## Isaiah 37

### Hezekiah seeks Isaiah's help

As soon as King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of the LORD. <sup>2</sup> And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz. <sup>3</sup> They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, 'This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. <sup>4</sup> It may be that the LORD your God will hear the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the LORD your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.'"

<sup>5</sup> When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, <sup>6</sup> Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the young men of the king of Assyria have reviled me. <sup>7</sup> Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumour and return to his own land, and I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.'"

<sup>8</sup> The Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that the king had left Lachish. <sup>9</sup> Now the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Cush, "He has set out to fight against you." And when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, <sup>10</sup> "Thus shall you speak to Hezekiah king of Judah: 'Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. <sup>11</sup> Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, devoting them to destruction. And shall you be delivered? <sup>12</sup> Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations that my fathers destroyed, Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? <sup>13</sup> Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, the king of Hena, or the king of Ivvah?'"

### Hezekiah's prayer for deliverance

<sup>14</sup> Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. <sup>15</sup> And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: <sup>16</sup> "O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. <sup>17</sup> Incline 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 mock the living God. <sup>18</sup> Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands, <sup>19</sup> 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 were destroyed. <sup>20</sup> So 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.”

## **Sennacherib's fall**

<sup>21</sup> Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, <sup>22</sup> this is the word that the LORD has spoken concerning him:

“She despises you, she scorns you—  
the virgin daughter of Zion;  
she wags her head behind you—  
the daughter of Jerusalem.

<sup>23</sup> “Whom have you mocked and reviled?  
Against whom have you raised your voice  
and lifted your eyes to the heights?  
Against the Holy One of Israel!

<sup>24</sup> By your servants you have mocked the Lord,  
and you have said, With my many chariots  
I have gone up the heights of the mountains,  
to the far recesses of Lebanon,  
to cut down its tallest cedars,  
its choicest cypresses,  
to come to its remotest height,  
its most fruitful forest.

<sup>25</sup> I dug wells  
and drank waters,  
to dry up with the sole of my foot  
all the streams of Egypt.

<sup>26</sup> “Have you not heard  
that I determined it long ago?  
I planned from days of old  
what now I bring to pass,  
that you should make fortified cities  
crash into heaps of ruins,

<sup>27</sup> while their inhabitants, shorn of strength,  
are dismayed and confounded,  
and have become like plants of the field  
and like tender grass,  
like grass on the housetops,  
blighted before it is grown.

<sup>28</sup> “I know your sitting down  
and your going out and coming in,  
and your raging against me.  
<sup>29</sup> Because you have raged against me  
and your complacency has come to my ears,  
I will put my hook in your nose  
and my bit in your mouth,  
and I will turn you back on the way  
by which you came.’

<sup>30</sup> “And this shall be the sign for you: this year you shall eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs from that. Then in the third year sow and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. <sup>31</sup> And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward. <sup>32</sup> For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

<sup>33</sup> “Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it. <sup>34</sup> By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the LORD. <sup>35</sup> For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.”

<sup>36</sup> And the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. <sup>37</sup> Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home and lived at Nineveh. <sup>38</sup> And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him down with the sword. And after they escaped into the land of Ararat, Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

## Cross References

**2 Kings 18 v 17, 18:** <sup>17</sup> And the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rab-saris, and the Rabshakeh with a great army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they arrived, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is on the highway to the Washer's Field. <sup>18</sup> And when they called for the king, there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder.

**Isaiah 19 v 16, 17:** <sup>16</sup> In that day the Egyptians will be like women, and tremble with fear before the hand that the LORD of hosts shakes over them. <sup>17</sup> And the land of Judah will become a terror to the Egyptians. Everyone to whom it is mentioned will fear because of the purpose that the LORD of hosts has purposed against them.

**Isaiah 20 v 3 to 5:** <sup>3</sup> Then the LORD said, “As my servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot for three years as a sign and a portent against Egypt and Cush, <sup>4</sup> so shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptian captives and the Cushite exiles, both the young and the old, naked and barefoot, with buttocks uncovered, the nakedness of Egypt. <sup>5</sup> Then they shall be dismayed and ashamed because of Cush their hope and of Egypt their boast.

**Isaiah 30 v 1, 2:**

“Ah, stubborn children,” declares the LORD,  
“who carry out a plan, but not mine,  
and who make an alliance, but not of my Spirit,  
that they may add sin to sin;  
<sup>2</sup> who set out to go down to Egypt,  
without asking for my direction,  
to take refuge in the protection of Pharaoh  
and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!

**2 Kings 18 v 1 to 5:** In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign. <sup>2</sup> He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. <sup>3</sup> And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done. <sup>4</sup> He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan). <sup>5</sup> He trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him.

**1 Peter 5 v 7:** casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

**Psalm 1 v 1 to 3:**

Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
<sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

<sup>3</sup> He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.