

BOOK OF ISAIAH

Outline

Chapters 37-39

1. **CHAPTER 37** King Hezekiah of Southern Kingdom Judah also **RENDS** (tears) his clothes when he is told about General Rabshakeh's threats outside the wall regarding his Assyrian army taking Jerusalem. Again, the **RENTING** of the clothes not only shows the Biblical principle "submit yourself to God, resist the devil and he will flee," but is also an example of recognition that we need the "covering" of God's Spirit--Just as Adam's and Eve's "**covering**" of fig leaves was **insufficient** to "cover" their sins and **God had to "cover" them with "blood sacrifices,"** i.e., the skins of slain animals--the first blood spilled in the Perfect Garden was for man's sin! From the very beginning, God was saying, "**IT'S GOING TO TAKE THE BLOOD TO COVER THIS!**"

Verses 6-7 Isaiah tells King Hezekiah, "be not afraid..." that God is going to "send a blast upon him (Assyria), and he shall hear a rumour, and return to his own land."

General Rabshakeh had to return to help his King, Sennacherib, in another war, but **he sent a letter back to Jerusalem,** telling them he planned to return and attack.

Verses 14-15 "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.** And Hezekiah **PRAYED** unto the Lord..."

King Hezekiah should have done this (**TAKE IT TO THE LORD**) the very first time Assyria had entered his land **INSTEAD** of trying to **BUY OFF THE ENEMY.** This cannot be done in anybody's spiritual life. **WE CANNOT BARGAIN WITH THE DEVIL!** From a practical standpoint, it cannot be done by a nation, either. Once a **nation** begins paying **tribute to its enemies,** that nation ends up being taken **captive by those enemies--JUST A MATTER OF TIME.**

Verse 21 God tells His prophet Isaiah to tell King Hezekiah that He has heard Hezekiah's prayer regarding the letter and the threats.

Verse 33 "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."

QUESTION: What does verse 35 say is the reason God will spare Jerusalem?

Verse 35 "For I will defend this city to save it **for mine own sake,** and **for my servant David's sake.**"

This refers to **COVENANT.** When God said "for mine own sake," He is speaking of His covenant with Abraham, where it is said that "because He could swear by no greater, He sware by Himself." God cut covenant **WITH HIMSELF** in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ. When God said "for my servant David's sake," He was also speaking of His covenant with David--that the **Eternal King** would specifically come from David's lineage. This covenant, too, was fulfilled when God cut covenant with Jesus (**Son of David**) upon the cross.

Verse 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.**"

Verse 38 "...his sons smote him with the sword..."

Twenty years after the defeat, King Sennacherib of Assyria was brutally murdered by his own sons while he was worshipping his false gods. They were jealous that their father had chosen another brother to succeed him as king. (They should have tried family counseling FIRST and worked through their anger!) Sennacherib reaped what he sowed: BRUTALITY and INHUMANITY.

2. **CHAPTER 38** Hezekiah's **sickness unto death** occurred **BEFORE the Assyrian defeat**. The expanding, brutal Assyrian Empire could have, no doubt, caused tremendous stress upon King Hezekiah which could have contributed to the illness. This chapter also tells about the emissaries from the nation of Babylon coming as well-wishers to the recovering King Hezekiah, and Hezekiah showing them everything he had. It is plausible that when King Sennacherib heard about Babylonians visiting Judah, he may have thought King Hezekiah was forging an alliance **with** Babylon **against** Assyria. This may have encouraged the siege of Jerusalem by King Sennacherib of Assyria.

Verses 1-3 King Hezekiah was sick unto death and Isaiah tells him, "Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live."

Hezekiah responds by turning his face toward the wall--praying and crying. Before Isaiah can leave the court of the house, the word of the Lord comes to him and tells him to go back.

Verse 5 "I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold I will add unto thy days fifteen years."

***SEEMINGLY, AN EXAMPLE OF GOD CHANGING HIS MIND BECAUSE OF FERVENT, HEART-FELT PRAYER! NOTICE GOD PHRASES THIS ANSWER IN TERMS OF COVENANT: "THUS SAITH THE LORD, THE GOD OF DAVID THY FATHER..."**

Verse 6 "And I will deliver thee and this city **OUT of the HAND of the King of Assyria**: and I will defend this city."

This scripture shows that Hezekiah's sickness occurred **BEFORE** the Assyrians' final siege of the city when 185,000 Assyrian soldiers were killed.

Verse 8 The sign from the Lord: "Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, **ten degrees backward**."

GREAT SCOTT! This **miracle rivals the miracle Joshua received** hundred of years prior in possessing the promised land when he prayed for the **sun and the moon to stand still** in order to have time to finish the battle. **Joshua's miracle stopped the entire universe in its course** and was not as a sign, but needed to finish the battle. In Hezekiah's case, **God stopped the universe in its course and pulled it backward in its course--just as a sign to Hezekiah** that He would heal him and prevent the Assyrians from capturing Jerusalem!!! **THAT'S THE POWER OF COVENANT!!!**

Verse 21 Isaiah's instructions for healing: "Let them take a **lump of figs**, and lay it for a plaister **upon the boil**, and he shall recover."

Question: Why figs?

Answer: Fig leaves were first mentioned in the Garden of Eden as the covering Adam and Eve chose after they had eaten of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. In Jeremiah, God uses two baskets of figs, one basket good while the others were evil, to represent the nation of Judah. The "good figs" would be the ones who would surrender to Babylon and go in to Babylon, accepting God's judgment. The "bad figs" would be

the ones who would revolt against the King of Babylon and scatter to Egypt and beyond. The figs and fig tree are representative of the nation and the national system of worship under the law of Moses. When Jesus cursed the fig tree in the New Testament, He was declaring that the former worship had "ceased" by Divine edict. A "New Covenant" was coming. The Old Covenant of the "Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil" (that is the Law of Moses or the Letter of the Law) had served its purpose and now the "New Covenant" of the "Tree of Life" (that is the Spirit of the Law, Jesus Christ) had come in the New Testament.

3. **CHAPTER 39** The news of the miraculous healing of King Hezekiah of the Southern Kingdom Judah spread all the way to **BABYLON** (present day area of **IRAQ**). It probably was not just the fact that Hezekiah was terminally ill and had recovered through the prophet Isaiah's word but, most likely, because it was associated with the astronomical phenomenon in the heavens. The Babylonians were students of the "stars," astronomy, etc. Remember, the magi came from the East to worship the baby Jesus because they had seen his "star." You can rest assured that the Babylonians had taken notice of a "**DISTURBANCE IN THE COSMIC FORCE**," (a little quote from *Star Wars*). They had sun dials, too, you know.

Verse 1 The Babylonian King, Merodachbaladan, sends "Thinking of You" Hallmark Greeting cards and presents to Hezekiah, supposedly rejoicing with him that he has been healed.

Verse 2 Other scriptures indicate that King Hezekiah became a little "lifted up." Sometimes when God does something **EXTREMELY SPECIAL** for us, we start thinking **WE ARE MORE SPECIAL THAN ANYONE ELSE**. After all, that was a pretty big miracle to **PULL THE UNIVERSE BACK IN TIME, just as a sign** for King Hezekiah. Whatever caused Hezekiah to momentarily feel prideful and, therefore, **NOT use wisdom/discernment** in allowing his **nation's future enemy** to come in and see everything that they would one day want to **steal**, **THIS GUIDED TOUR WAS A GRAVE MISTAKE AND SERIOUS TACTICAL ERROR FOR HIS NATION**. (The New Testament tells us to be "Wise as serpents yet harmless as Doves.")

The Lesson in this is: As Pastor said this morning, does God love one believer more than another if He PLAINLY answers a prayer for one yet NOT for the other? (He gave the example of praying for a parking space.) Hezekiah SHOULD NOT have been prideful about God doing this INCOMPREHENSIBLE MIRACLE of pulling back the universe in time for him. THE FACT IS: If you are a born-again believer in Jesus Christ as your Savior, IF, in the SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD, God needed to pull back the universe, HE WOULD DO IT FOR YOU, TOO! YOU ARE NO LESS LOVED than Hezekiah!!! If we become prideful, especially spiritual pride, WE LOSE OUR DISCERNMENT! That means we can OPEN THE DOOR to the ENEMY (SATAN) and SHOW HIM EVERYTHING IN OUR HOUSE! Don't let pride of any kind trip you up!!! IT AIN'T WORTH IT!!! The enemy is the THIEF and "the thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." (John 10:10 The words of our Lord.) God will use these Old Testament examples of the enemies, (Assyrians and Babylonians) coming in upon His Covenant people and doing these very things: **STEALING, KILLING, AND DESTROYING--TO TEACH US! We can learn so much by studying these Old Testament examples on what causes our spiritual failures and how the enemy**

(Satan and the demonic spirits) operate. We learn what gives the enemy (Satan) a "foot-hold" in our lives.

Verses 5-7 "Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the Word of the Lord of hosts: Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: **nothing shall be left, saith the Lord.** And of thy **sons** that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, **shall they take away;** and they shall be **eunuchs in the palace** of the king of Babylon."

(The enemy ALWAYS SEEKS TO **EMASCULATE** MEN--wicked Queen Jezebel kept a company of eunuchs around her. SATAN does **NOT** want to see SPIRITUALLY STRONG MEN! IT'S SATAN'S WORST NIGHTMARE! King David was an example in his physical strength of subduing all his enemies. Likewise, we can be spiritually strong. David was a MAN OF WAR! **WE BELIEVERS ARE AT WAR WITH UNSEEN POWERS OF DARKNESS and OUR OWN FALLEN FLESH NATURE.** We must stay **humble and submitted to God** to be **STRONG**, to be **able to HEAR** God's war-strategy plans. We are no match for those demonic powers in our own pitiful "strength" and mental capabilities.) The Word of the Lord comes to the prophet Isaiah and he tells King Hezekiah that he has **"PLAYED THUNDER."** (That's a Southern colloquialism for **ROYALLY MESSING UP.** My daddy used to say it and he was quite educated.☺)

IN CLOSING, REMEMBER KING HEZEKIAH AND **DON'T PLAY THUNDER,** ESPECIALLY WHEN DEALING WITH THE ENEMY OF YOUR SOULS!