

June 17th, 2018
"For the sake of His Glory"
Isaiah 37:1-7, 14-20, 33-36
(ESV)

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

June 10 Job 32-34	June 14 Psalms 1-8
June 11 Job 35-37	June 15 Psalms 9-16
June 12 Job 38-39	June 16 Psalms 17-20
June 13 Job 40-42	June 17 Psalms 21-25

Lesson Introduction: *In our lesson last week we saw that the Assyrians were taunting Judah, and threatening to overtake Jerusalem. We considered how Satan often attacks us in similar ways, and discussed what the Scriptures teach us about these attacks, and how we need to be rooted in the truth of God's word in order to withstand them. Today, we will look at Hezekiah's response to these threats, and How the Lord was faithful and true, and delivered the Judeans from the hands of the Assyrians. As we go, we will discuss **seeking godly counsel in the midst of turmoil, seeking the Lord in prayer in the midst of turmoil, and God's miraculous faithfulness in the midst of turmoil.***

Memory Verse: Isaiah 37:16

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH OF THE PASSAGE:

- **The Lord preserves those who are His (V. 4, 33-35).**
- **The Lord delivers His people for His glory (V. 20, 35).**
- **The Lord's power is far greater than the mightiest armies of this world (V. 36-38).**

Isaiah 37:1-7

As soon as 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 household, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz. 3 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. 4 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.'"

5 When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, 6 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. 7 Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land, and I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.'"

Isaiah 37:14-20

14 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. 15 And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord: 16 "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. 17 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. 18 Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands, 19 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. 20 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."

Isaiah 37:33-36

33 "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. 34 By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the Lord. 35 For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David."

36 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.

Seeking godly counsel in the midst of turmoil (V. 1-7)

-What is Hezekiah's instant reaction to hearing the news of the threats from Assyria? Why did he react in this way?

-What does Hezekiah sending for Isaiah tell us about his mindset in approaching this problem?

Note: We see in **verse 1** that Hezekiah's initial response to the news about the threats of Assyria was one of repentance. The tearing of his clothes and wearing of sackcloth is a reaction that symbolized grief and repentance. He recognized that the sin of Judah is what had brought this attack on, and he was sorry for it.

In sending word to Isaiah to pray for them, it is clear that Hezekiah saw the value of godly counsel in the midst of turmoil. Proverbs is full of wisdom concerning seeking godly counsel (**Proverbs 11:14, 12:15, 15:22, and 19:20-21**). Often times, our inclination in times of trouble is to turn to worldly counsel (political leaders, social media, google), without ever seeking wisdom from those around us who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose. Hezekiah knew that his best option was to go to the man who was God's mouthpiece, asking for prayer and wisdom.

-Who do you turn to when you are in a bind?

-Do you have godly people in your life who can pray for you, and give you wisdom according to God's word?

-When you are in crisis, is your first inclination to try and fix it on your own, or do you turn to those who will point you to the Lord and His wisdom?

Discussion Section 2: Seeking the Lord in prayer in the midst of turmoil (V. 14-20)

Note: In this section of our passage, Hezekiah has received a letter from the Assyrians with further taunts and threats. After reading it, he takes the letter and spreads it out before the LORD. As we look at these few verses, let's consider the way Hezekiah prayed, and where his hope was ultimately found.

-What does **V. 16** tell us about Hezekiah's view of God?

-Why is the way we think about God important?

-What is typically the first thing out of your mouth when you pray?

Note: Often times in prayer, our first inclination is to immediately start in on our problems and ask God to bring about a solution. However, Hezekiah, and also Jesus (The Lord's Prayer, **Matthew 6:9-13**), model for us

a prayer that is centered on the grandeur and holiness of God. Before any problem is mentioned, Hezekiah focuses his thoughts on the enormity of who God is, and approaches Him with reverence and praise on His lips. He recognized that God was above all of his problems, and found refuge in that fact alone.

In **verses 17-20** he does make his appeal to God concerning Judah's problem with Assyria, and pleads with the Lord to intervene. How amazing is it that the God of this universe, above every ruler and authority, instructs us to cry out to Him when we are in need (**Matthew 6:9-13, 1 Peter 5:17**).

-What is primarily on Hezekiah's mind as he closes out His prayer? What is primarily on your mind when asking the Lord to move and work in your life?

Note: Hezekiah had foremost on his mind the glory God. He recognized that Assyria was challenging God's holiness and grandeur, and so he prayed that God might show His power to all the nations. Our lives are meant to be a proclamation of the God's glory (**Isaiah 43:7, Ephesians 1:6**), and we ought to view our sufferings and trials as an opportunity for God to be glorified in us in mighty ways. This was Hezekiah's desire, and should be ours in all circumstances.

Discussion Section 3: God's miraculous faithfulness in the midst of turmoil (V. 33-36)

-Why does the Lord say He will defend Jerusalem ultimately? (**V. 35**)

-How does knowing that the Lord has the power to strike down 185,000 of the world's mightiest soldiers with no help from human hands affect the way you think about your problems?

Note: In these verses we see the Lord works on behalf of Judah for the sake of His holy name, and the covenant He made with David (**2 Samuel 7**). God's faithfulness is not reliant on man's faithfulness. He will always preserve His covenant people, and will work on our behalf for His glory (**Ezekiel 36:22-32**). God's faithfulness to glorifying Himself is the best thing in the world for us. The fact that all that He does is for His glory means that all that He does **points us to His glory**. If His work did not lead us to praise and magnify His name, we would be a joyless, unchanged people, as it is in beholding His glory that joy and transformation comes (**2 Corinthians 3:18**).