

# The Book of the Prophet ISAIAH

## Chapter 37

**Theme:** Hezekiah took Sennacherib's letter to God in prayer, and God responded in glorious vengeance.

### **Outline:**

- 1 Hezekiah's Response to Rabshakeh
- 2-5 His Solicitation of Isaiah the Prophet
- 6-7 God's First Answer to Comfort Him
- 8-9 Rabshakeh Forced to Leave Jerusalem
- 10-13 Sennacherib Sent Blasphemous Letter
- 14-20 Hezekiah's Response to King's Letter
- 21-29 God's Answer of Furious Judgment
- 30-35 God's Answer of Loving Restoration
- 36-37 God's Angel Destroyed the Assyrians
- 38 God Killed Sennacherib Spectacularly

**Preparatory Reading:** II Kings 19; II Chronicles 32; Isaiah 10,22,30,31.

### **Related Links:**

- A. *King Hezekiah: His Life and Lessons* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/hezekiah-lessons.pdf>.
- B. *A Threatened Virgin: God vs. Sennacherib* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/virgin-daughter-of-zion.pdf>.
- C. *Comparative Table of Three* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/sennacherib-three-witnesses-compared.pdf>
- D. *Fulfilled Prophecy* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/prophecy/glory-of-fulfilled-prophecy/sermon.php>.
- E. *Exposition of Isaiah 7* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-7.pdf>.
- F. *Exposition of Isaiah 8* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-8.pdf>.
- G. *Exposition of Isaiah 9* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-9.pdf>.
- H. *Exposition of Isaiah 10* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-10.pdf>.
- I. *Exposition of Isaiah 17* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-17.pdf>.
- J. *Exposition of Isaiah 18* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-18.pdf>.
- K. *Exposition of Isaiah 20* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-20.pdf>.
- L. *Exposition of Isaiah 21* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-21.pdf>.
- M. *Exposition of Isaiah 22* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-22.pdf>.
- N. *Exposition of Isaiah 28* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-28.pdf>.
- O. *Exposition of Isaiah 29* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-29.pdf>.
- P. *Exposition of Isaiah 30* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-30.pdf>.
- Q. *Exposition of Isaiah 31* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-31.pdf>.
- R. *Exposition of Isaiah 32* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-32.pdf>.
- S. *Exposition of Isaiah 33* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/isaiah-33.pdf>.
- T. *Effective Prayer will Reason with God (pages 6-7)* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/effectual-prayer.pdf>.
- U. *Power in Prayer like Hezekiah* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/power-of-prayer.pdf>.
- V. *The Dominion of God* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/sermons/god/dominion-of-god/sermon.php>.
- W. *The Angels of God* ... <http://www.letgodbettrue.com/pdf/angels-of-god.pdf>.

### **Introduction:**

- A. Isaiah chapters 36-37 are closely related as Sennacherib's threats and God's answers and vengeance.

1. These two chapters should be combined for study and interpretation as a continuation of events.
  2. The next chapters are different events – Hezekiah’s sickness (38) and Babylon’s ambassadors (39).
- B. Isaiah at this point has four chapters of history, comparable to Kings and Chronicles, with additions.
1. Before this chapter, the book contained prophecies, most of which were about Assyria or Babylon.
  2. After these four chapters, the book will emphasize Cyrus, the return of the Jews, and the Messiah.
  3. There are three historical records of war with Sennacherib, and Isaiah has many prophecies of it.
  4. Kings and Isaiah are very similar; we do not know if Isaiah wrote the account for both or another.
  5. Comparative Table of Three ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/sennacherib-three-witnesses-compared.pdf>.
- C. Fulfilled prophecy is one of the greatest proofs of God and supernatural revelation and builds our faith.
1. It should be clear to readers that God considered Sennacherib important to record the details thrice.
  2. With many preceding prophecies about Assyria, about 15 of 35 chapters, this history fulfilled them.
  3. With the book’s first half and prophecies confirmed (1-39), the next section exalts it (Is 41:21-26).
  4. The detailed prophecies preceding the fulfillment glorify God, add details, and should cause joy.
  5. Fulfilled Prophecy ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/prophecy/glory-of-fulfilled-prophecy/sermon.php>.
- D. The Assyrian Empire and its kings were frequent enemies of Judah and its kings, especially Hezekiah.
1. The Assyrian Empire was a powerful and cruel combination of nations from Afghanistan to Egypt.
  2. Its history is traced to Asshur at division of nations after the Flood and before Babel (Gen 10:11).
  3. Sennacherib was one of their successful kings, though this expedition and his life do not end well.
  4. World history has little value unless one sees the God of history and His will among earth’s nations.
  5. His church-state, Israel, is by far the only key nation to Him (Deut 32:8; Amos 3:2; Acts 17:26).
- E. Let us not duplicate dictionaries, encyclopedias, commentaries, and chronologies to distract our hearts.
1. We could waste hours researching the Assyrian Empire, Sennacherib, Rabshakeh, and Esarhaddon.
  2. Let us rather find lessons of faith that will exalt God and teach us hope for any event (Rom 15:4).
  3. Neither intellectual curiosity nor scholastic inquiry is faith, but they both may undermine true faith.
  4. We will exalt efficiency and emphasis to build our faith in God and love for God and His jealousy.
  5. Fulfilled prophecy glorifies God and confirms the supernatural nature of the Bible above all books.
  6. Commentators attack the text, alter the text, quote buddies, multiply possibilities, and miss lessons.
  7. We will rejoice in fulfilled prophecy, laugh at the overthrow of Sennacherib, rejoice in what God did for Hezekiah, know how safe we are in Christ, and hunt diligently for life lessons God intended.
  8. Hezekiah trusted God more than any other king, which also emphasizes this history (II Kings 18:5).
  9. *King Hezekiah: His Life and Lessons* ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/hezekiah-lessons.pdf>.
- F. There are a variety of lessons to be taken from this repeated historical account of God’s saving power.
1. Trials can come though you have set your heart right like Hezekiah’s revival, Job, Jesus, Paul, etc.
  2. Things can get worse, as in fenced cities and broken covenant, like with Jacob or Israel in Egypt.
  3. Do not think about numbers, power, influence, or successes by enemies; God is more than enough.
  4. Go to the house of the LORD in humility and cost to get God’s help like Hezekiah did twice here.
  5. God gets more glory when He allows circumstances to degenerate and the case becomes hopeless.
  6. It is wise to tell God the circumstances are impossible and you are helpless (Is 36:3; II Chr 20:12).
  7. Ignore ridicule of the world or enemies of your God and trust – they think they came from baboons.
  8. Ignore their challenges or dares, for they seek to undermine your faith. Challenge God in prayer.
  9. If they spread ridicule or dares to your friends or to others, trust in God over such foolish hearers.
  10. Ignore their appeals to your God, for they lie like Rabshakeh, or He does not hear them (Ps 18:41).
  11. God only cares about the righteous and hears their prayers, so live right and know He is your God.
  12. Remember always that God sees you and/or His church as His virgin daughter. He will tear them.
  13. Observe the various means of Rabshakeh’s seduction and protect your own daughters from such.
  14. Ignore offers of goodness, for blasphemers have further evil in their minds (Pr 23:1-8; 26:24-26).
  15. Comparisons with other gods or religions is vain nonsense, for there is no other God but our Father.
  16. Do not discuss with blasphemers any more than Eve should have or Hezekiah allowed (Is 36:21).
  17. There is a world of angelic princes in national events, but our princes win (Daniel 10:13,21; 12:1).

18. Angels mean there are more with us than with them (II Chr 32:7-8; II Kings 16:6; Heb 1:13-14).
19. There are ways to pray that are more effective than other ways, and Hezekiah demonstrated them.
20. Reason with God about His jealousy and glory as the best effective appeals in prayer over yourself.
21. Appeal to Him as the Creator of the universe and totally able to deal with the situation (Is 37:16).
22. Appeal to Him by scripture that bears on the event to hold Him accountable to it (Num 14:17-19).
23. Appeal to His sovereign government of the world and the situation you are facing (Acts 4:23-30).
24. Appeal to His love for His Son and promises in Him, ultimate leverage (Is 37:36; Jn 16:23-27).
25. God will protect His own, and you can count on it (Ps 18:6; 34:6; 105:13-15; Hebrews 13:5-6).
26. Do not care what other churches may do. Judah did not care what Israel did. Close peers may fall.
27. Man freely sins but his will is simply God's tool for God's own will e.g. Sennacherib (Isaiah 10).
28. Do your reasonable best to help yourself but trust God for the rest and sleep (Ps 127:1-2; Is 30:15).
29. God pities weak faith if mostly strong, for no man has perfect faith (Ps 27:13-14; I Kings 15:14).
30. Pray as if it all depends on God, no matter what measures you may have taken or will take yourself.
31. There is power in fervent, righteous, effectual praying, even for very imperfect men (Jas 5:16-18).
32. But sometimes more than prayer is needed, like here (sackcloth) or the lunatic's father (fasting).
33. If you know an intercessor like Isaiah, have him pray for you, but better yet, be an intercessor.
34. God can save in ways you cannot imagine, without you lifting a finger, so trust rather than think.
35. God laughs last and laughs best at His enemies and your enemies, so be excited about the outcome.
36. God loves His church and His people, so haters play with fire, for He will defend in vengeance.
37. God is jealous of His glory, so flirting with the world is spiritual adultery (Hosea 3:1; James 4:4).
38. Do not play games with God's church, lest you be like Achan, Ananias, Corinth (I Co 3:17; 11:30).
39. God will bring great trials to perfect you by more faith in Him, so rejoice (Rom 5:3-5; Jas 1:2-4).
40. The God of the Bible is different from the Sunday School god of most Christians. Learn it well.

\*\*\*\*\* *Hezekiah's Response to Rabshakeh – Verse 1* \*\*\*\*\*

***1 And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD.***

- A. Great men, like Hezekiah and David fear intimidating threats, but how do they respond?
  1. Hezekiah showed his grief, fear, and need, but went into God's house to worship.
  2. David said that he turned to the LORD when he was afraid (Ps 56:3; I Sam 30:6-8).
- B. The more desperate the situation, the more desperate should be your prayer (Mat 17:21).

\*\*\*\*\* *He Solicited Isaiah to Pray for Him – Verses 2-5* \*\*\*\*\*

***2 And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests covered with sackcloth, unto Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz.***

- A. See again, by inspired repetition, reversal of roles of Eliakim and Shebna (Is 22:15-25).
- B. Sackcloth was to show sincerity and fervency before God by discomfort and humility.
- C. God hears special men more than others, told by five great men (Jer 15:1; Ezek 14:14).

D. Each man should want to be like the five; each woman should be like Hannah and Anna.

**3 And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and of blasphemy: for the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth.**

- A. The confrontation by Rabshakeh was summarized as trouble, rebuke, and blasphemy.
- B. It is acceptable to tell the LORD that you are overwhelmed in a matter (II Chron 20:12).
- C. A woman in labor may be overwhelmed (mostly in transition) that she cannot finish it.
  - 1. The anxiety and pain of childbirth is often used for fear, but here it is for confidence.
  - 2. The terminology is of a woman knowing she is in labor but without strength to finish.

**4 It may be the LORD thy God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God, and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that is left.**

- A. Hezekiah asked Isaiah the prophet, the man of God, to pray for the few remnant Jews.
- B. Hezekiah reasoned that the living God should be jealously angry about the blasphemy.
  - 1. Reasoning with God in prayer is one of the powerful ways to pray most effectually.
  - 2. Our God is a jealous God and will not share glory with another (Ex 34:14; De 4:24).
- C. For reasoning in prayer [see pages 6-7 linked] ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/effectual-prayer.pdf>.

**5 So the servants of king Hezekiah came to Isaiah.**

\*\*\*\*\* God's First Answer to Comfort Him – Verses 6-7 \*\*\*\*\*

**6 And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say unto your master, Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words that thou hast heard, wherewith the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.**

- A. The best answer for any dilemma or trouble is always the same ... *Thus saith the LORD.*
- B. Our glorious God, like a good father, prefaces His response by saying not to fear them.
- C. The LORD turned the conflict from one of Assyria with Hezekiah to them against Him.

**7 Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.**

- A. The order of these four events does not matter as much as the content and intent of them.
  - 1. First, there was the rumor that Tirhakah was coming, so he lifted siege of Jerusalem.
  - 2. Second, after he destroyed the Egyptians and Ethiopians, God blasted 185,000 dead.
  - 3. Third, he returned to his own land, which was Assyria's capital city of Nineveh.
  - 4. Fourth, he was assassinated in his own land, for there was no safety from the LORD.
- B. The order will not bother those that trust God and know He wrote scripture to confound.
  - 1. Believing Bible study always gives God the benefit of the doubt and mocks skeptics.
  - 2. This example of rearranged order, and the Bible has others, is a lesson for study.
  - 3. About confusion ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/god/is-god-the-author-of-confusion/sermon.php>.
- C. The great amount of information about these four events provide proof of our order.
  - 1. The rumor, which was not second, but was first, is found in the very next verse here.
  - 2. The blast, causing him to return to Assyria, not the rumor, is also here (Is 37:36-37).
  - 3. His assassination is further explained here as well, which was by his sons (Is 37:38).

\*\*\*\*\* *Rabshakeh Forced to Leave Jerusalem – Verses 8-9* \*\*\*\*\*

**8 So Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah: for he had heard that he was departed from Lachish.**

- A. Why did Rabshakeh take his army to Libnah, not Lachish? for the battle news received.
- B. History reveals clearly that Sennacherib took Lachish with a cruel and terrible siege.
- C. Here is the rumor, which does not mean fake news, but rather true news, about Tirhakah.

**9 And he heard say concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, He is come forth to make war with thee. And when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,**

- A. Here is the rumor, which does not mean fake news, but rather true news, about Tirhakah.
- B. Earlier in Isaiah we have seen prophecies against Egypt and Ethiopia (Is 18,20,30,31).
- C. Sennacherib had to rejoin his armies for the host coming, thus lifting Jerusalem's siege.
- D. Withdrawing his army clearly comforted Hezekiah, but Assyria promised their return.



**10 Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God, in whom thou trustest, deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.**

- A. Lifting the siege must have pained Sennacherib and Rabshakeh, so they wrote this letter.
- B. They seem to know quite well the faith of Hezekiah – maybe traitor Shebna told them?
- C. Let others mock us for our faith in God and His word – they will do so more and more.
- D. Most Christians today know little more about the Bible than king Sennacherib did of it.

**11 Behold, thou hast heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by destroying them utterly; and shalt thou be delivered?**

- A. The reputation of the Assyrian Empire and its mighty army were indeed intimidating.
- B. But it does not matter what has happened to others, for God and His people are unique.
- C. Christians should have Jonathan’s view – many or few does not matter (I Samuel 14:6).

**12 Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed, as Gozan, and Haran, and Rezeph, and the children of Eden which were in Telassar?**

- A. Sennacherib saw no difference between Judah’s Jehovah and the pagan nations’ idols.
- B. The fathers here are the royal ancestors of Sennacherib, as Sargon and Tiglathpileser.
- C. The places listed are little known or described in the Bible and add nothing for lessons.

**13 Where is the king of Hamath, and the king of Arphad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah?**

- A. Sennacherib’s letter is to Hezekiah, so he recounts the ruin of many kings by Assyria.
- B. But what others have done or not done is nothing to God – miracles are His specialty.

**14 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.**

- A. Hezekiah’s response to Sennacherib’s letter is the same as to Rabshakeh’s blasphemy.

- B. The proper response to fear and trouble is to worship and ask the only God for help.
- C. If you have something in writing, there is nothing wrong with laying it out before God.

***15 And Hezekiah prayed unto the LORD, saying,***

- A. Forget how you pray at meals, how your mommy prayed, or how Billy Graham prayed.
- B. Learn about effectual praying from a tremendous example like the good king Hezekiah.
- C. Effectual Prayer (detailed outline) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/effectual-prayer.pdf>.

***16 O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.***

- A. Prayer begins with glorious praise to God of His name, location, attributes, works, etc.
- B. This is common in the Bible in longer prayers addressing God for very serious matters.
- C. Compare Solomon, Jesus, and the early church (I Kings 8:23; Matthew 6:9; Acts 4:24).

***17 Incline thine ear, O LORD, and hear; open thine eyes, O LORD, and see: and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God.***

- A. It is perfectly appropriate to ask God to bow down for prayers and to see (Ps 31:2; 86:1).
- B. Hezekiah knew his unique leverage in this case was to identify Sennacherib's reproach.

***18 Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations, and their countries,***

- A. Hezekiah confirmed the obvious with God to remind Him of the great power of Assyria.
- B. Here was a situation for God to prove Himself above all gods and Hezekiah showed it.

***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 have destroyed them.***

- A. Hezekiah confirmed the obvious with God to remind Him of vanity of manmade idols.
- B. Here was a situation for God to prove Himself above all gods and Hezekiah showed it.

***20 Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only.***

- A. This is easy reasoning with God in prayer and guaranteed to get His jealous attention.

- B. This is how you should pray ... rather than tell God worthless details He already knows.
- C. Most erroneously think telling God all details of a request is how they show fervency.
- D. Glorious praise and reasoning with God should replace all the elaboration of details.
- E. There is no prayer in the Bible like most pray ... going on and on and on about details.

\*\*\*\*\* *God's Answer of Furious Judgment – Verses 21-29* \*\*\*\*\*

***21 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent unto Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Whereas thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria:***

- A. The best answer for any dilemma or trouble is always the same ... *Thus saith the LORD.*
- B. Isaiah did not say, Thus saith Isaiah the prophet and man of God, but far beyond that.
- C. The following answer from God is creative, glorious, and wonderful in His vengeance.
- D. A Virgin Offended (detailed slides) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/virgin-daughter-of-zion.pdf>.

***22 This is the word which the LORD hath spoken concerning him; The virgin, the daughter of Zion, hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.***

- A. Sennacherib, like a prom king in high school, sought to deflower/destroy another nation.
- B. God responded that His virgin daughter thought Sennacherib to be scum for mocking.
- C. A Virgin Offended (detailed slides) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/virgin-daughter-of-zion.pdf>.

***23 Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.***

- A. O yes! Listen to the God of the Bible, the only true and living God, exalt Himself highly!
- B. Sennacherib had likely used similar or identical tactics on the other nations He defeated.
- C. The LORD Jehovah wanted him to know the difference between pagan idols and Him.
- D. Hezekiah/Isaiah may have penned this to Sennacherib, but context does not require it.

***24 By thy servants hast thou reproached the Lord, and hast said, By the multitude of my chariots am I come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon; and I will cut down the tall cedars thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the height of his border, and the forest of his Carmel.***



- A. God had indeed heard the blasphemous speech of Rabshakeh from the previous chapter.
- B. The figures of speech here are common in Isaiah pertaining to Assyria for choice men.
- C. God took the whole thing personally, thus the use of personal *him* the last two phrases.

***25 I have digged, and drunk water; and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of the besieged places.***

- A. God to this verse – next verse changes – continued to mock Sennacherib’s arrogance.
- B. His Army Corp of Engineers had been able to supply his needs and cut off enemy needs.
- C. This is interesting, for Hezekiah had reworked water supply (Is 22:11; II Chr 32:4,30).

***26 Hast thou not heard long ago, how I have done it; and of ancient times, that I have formed it? now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldest be to lay waste defenced cities into ruinous heaps.***

- A. Sennacherib’s exploits, even against Judah, had been prophesied long before by God.
  1. They were prophesied in general as early as Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, etc.
  2. They were prophesied in specific by Isaiah in the reigns of earlier kings of Judah.
  3. They were illustrated by God’s providential judgment after chastening by Egypt, etc.
  4. They were known by God’s sovereign decrees ruling all earthly events (Acts 15:18).
  5. They were known by God’s special blessing of Israel over Egypt, Canaan, enemies.
- B. It is a fool that does not know the Bible and see God’s mighty hand in all current events.
- C. Sennacherib was nothing more than a rod in God’s hand as clearly stated (Is 10:5-15).
- D. This proves God had not communicated to Sennacherib early to go up against Judah.
- E. Sennacherib should have been able to deduce that only God’s use of him allowed it.
- F. This explanation is more to Hezekiah than Sennacherib, though worded to the Assyrian.

***27 Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded: they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up.***

- A. In light of the previous verse, God was in the matter more than the great king of Assyria.
- B. The reason no nation could stand against Assyria was God’s enablement of their forces.
- C. The reason no nation could stand against Assyria was God’s disabling of the nations.
- D. Since God was the great enabler, then Sennacherib should not have taken glory for it.

***28 But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me.***

- A. Instead of humility or logical concession, Sennacherib had presumed against Jehovah.
- B. Compare Nebuchadnezzar’s far more reasonable spirit and actions toward Jerusalem.

**29 Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.**

- A. God does not miss a thing on earth. He is doing more than watching from a distance.
- B. Sennacherib's loud boasting and violent blasphemy against Jehovah got his attention.
- C. The mighty king of Assyria was no more to God than ordinary farmers using animals.
- D. The hook in the nose could be fish (but not nose) or of oxen (but a ring more than hook).
- E. Your campaign and its plans, like a dream, will end when I send you back to Nineveh.

\*\*\*\*\* *God's Answer of Loving Restoration – Verses 30-35* \*\*\*\*\*

**30 And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such as groweth of itself; and the second year that which springeth of the same: and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof.**

- A. These words, very different from the previous verse, are to Hezekiah, not Sennacherib.
- B. To further confirm the miraculous deliverance from Assyria, God gave yet another sign.
  - 1. The sign would first prove that God had driven them out and had forgiven the Jews.
  - 2. The sign would then prove that Sennacherib would not regather an army to return.
- C. These years are understood as a miracle due to the occupying army or years of release.
  - 1. Though Judah was destroyed and the remnant in the city, food would grow of itself.
  - 2. Enough would grow in year one to leave seed in the field to grow for the next year.
  - 3. By the third year, after God's two-year miracle, they could resume ordinary farming.
- D. It is one thing to be saved from an army, but another to have food miraculously supplied.
- E. Compare that it is one thing to be pardoned from hellfire but another to be adopted.

**31 And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward:**

- A. God would not only spare the lives of the remnant but would establish them by growth.
- B. Though planting and farming still controls the words, the intent is the remnant itself.

**32 For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.**

- A. When Sennacherib's army was ruined, the remnant of surviving Jews was in Jerusalem.
- B. God would destroy the army and bless the agriculture for them to spread out in Judah.
- C. How could they expect such a dramatic reversal of fortune two ways? – Jehovah's zeal!

**33 Therefore 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.**

- A. Give God the glory! He gave a summary to Hezekiah of just how safe the city truly was.
- B. No matter what Rabshakeh might have done before, his army would not return again.

**34 By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD.**

- A. Rather than a circuitous route of successive victories, he would retreat directly home.
- B. Two sentences and verses in a row state the promise – he shall not come into the city.
- C. If God said it, that settles it. And God said it, so the Jews could count on it completely.

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

- A. God promised to defend the city for two great reasons – His sake and for David's sake.
- B. His sake was to silence the Assyrian blasphemy and to prove to all He alone was God.
- C. David's sake was the promise – the anointing – of successive kings to reach to Messiah.

\*\*\*\*\* *God's Angel Destroyed the Assyrians – Verses 36-37* \*\*\*\*\*

**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.**

- A. We are told in another account that those killed were the best and leaders (II Chr 32:21).
- B. No human ingenuity or imagination could do such a thing, but it was easy for the LORD.

**37 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh.**

- A. We are told in another account that he returned home with shame of face (II Chr 32:21).
- B. The annals of Assyrian history do not detail this expedition's ruin for obvious reasons.
- C. There is a strange, inconclusive silence in Sennacherib's report about Hezekiah's end.

***38 And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead.***

- A. This arrogant blasphemer had mocked all other gods, but he died in the presence of his.
- B. This mighty conqueror has been able to subdue most foreign powers, but not his sons.
- C. Nineveh was 700 miles or so from Jerusalem, but our omnipresent Jehovah found him.
- D. Chronologists date his assassination about 30 years later ... much time to think about it.