

Thursday Evening Bible Study Series: **The Book of Isaiah**

Teaching Summary for Week 40

Chapters 36 and 37

Chapters 36-39 make up a historical narrative of events during the rule of king Hezekiah in Jerusalem. Chapters 36 and 37 close out the Assyrian threat to Judah with a miraculous deliverance by the Lord. Chapters 38 and 39 focus on Hezekiah's life afterwards. It's a story of answered prayer, a foolhardy decision, and a prophesy of future ruin at the hands of the Babylonians, who will take Israel into exile. In this way, chapters 36-39 serve as the bridge between the prophecies of chapters 1-35 and those of chapters 40-66. You will find parallel accounts in 2 Kings 18-19 and 2 Chronicles 32:1-23.

Here's an outline of chapters 36 & 37:

Verses	Subject
36:1-22	The taunts from Sennacherib, king of Assyria
37:1-5	Hezekiah turns to Isaiah, the prophet of the LORD
37:6-7	Thus says the LORD
37:8-13	The message from the Assyrian commander
37:14-20	The great prayer of Hezekiah
37:21-35	Thus says the LORD
37:36-38	The great victory of the LORD

We read chapter 36 last week. Let's read chapter 37 together now.

Discussion Guide

1. In 36:5, Rabshakeh unknowingly put his finger on the crux of the issue in chapters 1-35. What is that?
2. What fatal error does Sennacherib make repeatedly in chapters 36 & 37? What lesson did the Lord teach him? See Isa 36:14-16, 18-20; 37:4-7, 10-12, 23-24, 28-29,35. Who else in the Bible learned that lesson?
3. Chapters 36 & 37 have a “war of words” between Sennacherib and the LORD. Find key points in the “war”.
4. What makes Hezekiah’s prayer in 37:14-20 so magnificent?
5. How does Hezekiah address the Lord in verse 14? Why does he use these 6 titles?
6. Had the LORD delivered Israel miraculously in the past? Give a few examples.
7. The LORD already fulfilled prophecies He made earlier in Isaiah. What effect should this have had on Hezekiah and the Jews now? See 5:5-7, 26-30; 6:11-13; 7:1-9, 14-25; 8:1-8; 9:8-10:11; 30:1-17; 33:7-9.
8. Years earlier, the Lord had promised that He would destroy Sennacherib. Yet here in chapter 37 He says He is going to do it because Hezekiah prayed to Him, and Sennacherib blasphemed against Him. What does this teach about how the Lord operates in human affairs? Can you think of other examples?
9. What lessons can we learn from chapters 36 & 37 that apply to our lives today?