

**Isaiah**

**The Lord Is Salvation**

**Isaiah  
Reassured  
King  
Hezekiah**

**Isaiah 36:22-37:13**

**Lesson Forty-One**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Isaiah

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## Isaiah Reassured King Hezekiah

We read in our last lesson about the messenger of Sennacherib (Si-nack'-uh-rib) threatening Jerusalem. This was no empty threat. Sennacherib could defeat any foe he met. He was laughing at the gods of the other nations who had challenged him. Standing behind Sennacherib's messenger were thousands of Assyrian soldiers who were larger, better trained and much better equipped than Judah's little army. When the messenger stopped speaking, the officials of the Judean government were duly frightened. We met them in our last lesson. Their names were Eliakim (E-li'-a-kim), Shebna (Sheb'-nuh) and Joah (JO' uh).

They didn't say a word in response to the threat. They tore their robes, which is what the Hebrews did in those days to show humility. They rushed to King Hezekiah and told him what the messenger of Sennacherib had said. Hezekiah also tore his clothes and went a step further and put on burlap for clothing. Read Isaiah 36:22—37:13

King Hezekiah immediately went to the Temple and prayed. This is the first indication that he is ready to hear from God. Then he gathered together a very impressive committee to send to Isaiah. The committee consisted of Hezekiah's top advisors along with the older, most respected priests. He had the committee wear burlap which also indicated humility or mourning.

It is interesting; Hezekiah had ignored Isaiah's warnings and the messages from God in the past, but now, he is frightened enough to give Isaiah's God a try. He lists "distress," "rebuke" and "disgrace" as describing the situation faced by Judah. It was a dark day in Jerusalem. Isaiah said the situation is like the time when a child is ready to be born, but doesn't because there is a problem. Judah's future is in doubt.

Then Hezekiah really challenged Isaiah. He told Isaiah that the messenger from Sennacherib had mocked God. He said that maybe Isaiah's God had heard the ridicule of Sennacherib and would be insulted by it. And then Hezekiah pled with Isaiah to pray for Jerusalem. He actually asked prayer for the "remnant." Jerusalem was about all that was left of Judah...the remnant.

Isaiah sent back a very reassuring word. He told Hezekiah that he should not take the words of Sennacherib too seriously. God had already planned the end of the Assyrian king. He said that something would force the king to go back to Assyria and that when he got there he will be assassinated. We are going to get to the story of that death in a future lesson. For now, let's just say that God carried out this prophecy.

It seems that while the Assyrian army was camped outside Jerusalem, they had other battles going. Sennacherib had left one hotspot, Lachish (LA'-kish), and gone to another place where

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there was a battle. That place was Libnah (Lib'-nuh). Sennacherib heard that the king of Egypt was marching toward him to attack, but the king of the Assyrians was determined to get the Judeans to surrender, and he sent another message. It is interesting that this time not only was the message spoken, it was written and delivered to the king of Judea.

This message was sort of a second verse of the first message. He told Hezekiah that the God of Israel could not be trusted to be their protector. They had better surrender because the Assyrians were stronger than God.

And then Sennacherib listed other nations that had been destroyed by Assyria. He asked Hezekiah if the gods of those nations delivered them? There was Gozan (Go'-zan), Haran (Haah'-ran), Razeph (RA'-zef), and Eden. He lists Hamath (Hay'-math), Arphad (Ar'-fad), Sepharvaim (Sef-ar-va'-im), Hena (Ha'-nah), and Ivah (I'-vah). Many of these cities are not recognizable any longer. They represented what we would call city-states. The area around the city was considered part of the city and ruled by the king of the city. Some of these represented larger nations, called by the name of their major city. This was an impressive list. Sennacherib wanted to convince Hezekiah that Judah didn't have a chance, and that since the gods of these other places didn't save them, the God of Judah would not be able to save Judah.

Now, looking at it from our side, we know that the king of the Assyrians didn't know the God he was talking about, and we assume that the King of Judah knew that His God would save him, but think again. Hezekiah had not been depending on God. He made a treaty with Egypt instead of trusting God for protection. Notice that in 37:4, his word to Isaiah was "It may be that the Lord YOUR God will hear..." He didn't say, "the Lord OUR God..." So, what we have here is an arrogant Sennacherib threatening God's people, and Judah, which was supposed to depend on God, depending on themselves and their allies.

That is often true today. Christians who know who God is, who say that they trust in God, are often found depending on something or someone else for protection and guidance. How often we give our trust to enough money, enough friends, enough intelligence, or a thousand other things for what it will take to survive and thrive in this world...instead of trusting God.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

### Page Three

**Scripture Memory:** "This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid of what you have heard—those words with which the underlings of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me." Is. 37:6

**Lesson Goal:** To show students that sometimes the situation seems hopeless. Sometimes the enemy seems to have the advantage over us.

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## Student Worksheet

### **Isaiah Reassured King Hezekiah—Isaiah 36:22-37:13**

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. What did the tearing of robes mean in Isaiah's day?
2. What was the first thing King Hezekiah did when he heard Sennacherib's threat?
3. What were the three words Hezekiah used to describe the situation in Judah?
4. Isaiah sent back a very reassuring \_\_\_\_\_. He told Hezekiah that he should not take the \_\_\_\_\_ of Sennacherib too seriously.
5. What had King Hezekiah done rather than depend on God?
6. How often we give our \_\_\_\_\_ to enough \_\_\_\_\_, enough \_\_\_\_\_, enough intelligence, or a thousand other things to survive and thrive in this world...instead of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Scripture Memory:** "This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid of what you have heard—those words with which the underlings of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me." Is. 37:6

#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.