

**Isaiah**

**The Lord Is Salvation**

**King**

**Hezekiah**

**Prayed**

**Isaiah 37:14-20**

**Lesson Forty-Two**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Isaiah

**The Lord Is Salvation**

## King Hezekiah Prayed

King Hezekiah was humbled by the seemingly hopeless situation with the Assyrian army camped outside Jerusalem. Sennacherib's messenger had delivered what seemed to be the words of doom. But God's prophet, Isaiah, when called on by the messengers from King Hezekiah, told him not to be afraid. God was going to send Sennacherib back home to Assyria.

We read, in our last lesson, about a letter Sennacherib sent to Hezekiah. When it came, Hezekiah did what all should do who see the hand of God at work. He prayed. Read Isaiah 37:14-20.

Sennacherib's letter, as we have seen, mocked God, comparing Him to the gods of other nations. Sennacherib said that no matter who Israel's God was, He would conquer them, just as he had all those other nations whose gods had not protected them.

When Hezekiah read the letter, he knew that He had to have help beyond himself. Before, he had sent for help from Isaiah. This time, he went to the Temple personally. In the Old Testament, God was in the Temple. Even the king had to observe the rules of the Temple, so he could not go into the Holy of Holies, where God sat on the Mercy Seat. But, it is obvious that he walked up to one of the altars and spread (unrolled) Sennacherib's letter for God to see. Now, of course, God already knew what was in the letter, and we can be pretty sure Hezekiah also knew that. However, this is Hezekiah's way of saying, "Look, God. See what Sennacherib has said about you."

This is the king who refused to listen to Isaiah with regard to trusting Egypt, rather than trusting God, with the safety of Judah. It seems that he had trusted the future of God's people to the army and the gods of Egypt. Now, because of the terrible threat, he turns to the true God for help. We should look at Hezekiah's prayer to see his reverence for God.

Hezekiah could not have spoken greater words in addressing his prayer to God. He called God, "Lord Almighty," "God of Israel," the "one enthroned between the cherubim (angels)," "the God over all kingdoms of the earth," and "the living God."

This would not be the prayer of someone who was not well acquainted with God. We should probably realize that the first thing for most of us is to trust in our own strength and strategies before we call on God. Has that ever happened to you?

Hezekiah shows us a truly humble spirit. He had to admit to himself, and to those who were his advisors, a true change of heart. He would no longer depend on Egypt.

# Isaiah

## The Lord Is Salvation

And look at the way he addressed God: “Lord Almighty,” a God with strength above all else, including the Assyrian army. “God of Israel,” people in Judah, some think that even Hezekiah himself, worshipped other gods. “enthroned between the cherubim,” a God where the angels dwell. “You alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth,” there are no other gods over the nations, no matter what those nations believe. “You have made Heaven and Earth” this God brought everything into being. “the living God” not like the unresponsive idols that other nations worshipped. All that pretty much dismisses any idea that Sennacherib had made a valid threat against Judah.

Hezekiah challenges God to hear the threatening words of Sennacherib against the living God. He reminds God that the Assyrians had indeed done all that Sennacherib bragged about in his letter. He reminded God that Assyria had torn down the altars and burned up the gods of all the other nations. Hezekiah testified before God that all those gods were only wood. They burned up just like any other wood would burn. Because, he said, “they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands.”

And, we come to the great need. King Hezekiah said, “O Lord our God...” There was no doubt in Hezekiah’s mind that God was the God of Israel and that Hezekiah believed in Him. God is **OUR** God. He asked God to rescue His people once again: “deliver us...”

Finally, Hezekiah points out that when the Assyrians are defeated, it will be understood that only God could do that. After all, Sennacherib’s army was unbeatable. But, if God would help Judah, the whole world would know that God alone is God.

He prayed for God’s attention. That might be seen as a mistake, because God is always attentive to us and our circumstances. But, do we not all want to be sure that God is truly listening to our prayer? Other prophets record prayers beginning with “Hear me, O Lord (O God). Be sure that God hears you when you pray. This is the wonderful promise for all who believe in Him. We must address Him with humility. We should begin our prayer by letting Him know *that we know* who He is. Then we will be in the right attitude for prayer.

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

### Page Three

**Scripture Memory:** “O Lord Almighty, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Isaiah 37:16

**Lesson Goal:** To show students that when we go to God, we can be sure that He hears us and that He wants what is best for us.

# Isaiah

**The Lord Is Salvation**

## Student Worksheet

### **King Hezekiah Prayed—Isaiah 37: 14-20**

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

1. Sennacherib's letter, as we have seen, \_\_\_\_\_ God, comparing Him to the \_\_\_\_\_ of other nations
2. Before his prayer in the Temple, to whom was Hezekiah trusting the safety of Israel?
3. What five things did Hezekiah call God?
4. What does it mean when Hezekiah said, "O Lord, *our* God..."
5. What will happen when Judah is saved from Assyria?

**Scripture Memory:** "O Lord Almighty, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Isaiah 37:16

#### **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.