

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

Sennacherib

Is

Doomed

Isaiah 37:21-29

Lesson Forty-Three

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

Sennacherib Is Doomed

We must look back to Hezekiah's prayer to find the reason God announces Sennacherib's doom. In our last lesson we read that Hezekiah, king of Judah, prayed, "O Lord, deliver us from his hand." He was talking about the frightening hand of Sennacherib, king of Assyria. Isaiah then said that God had heard Hezekiah's prayer. Read Isaiah 37:21-29.

Isaiah told Hezekiah that God had heard him, then he told Hezekiah just what God had in mind for Sennacherib. The list of the sins of Sennacherib are spoken to the man himself. God said that Judah had nothing but contempt for Sennacherib. He said that Judah would turn on her heel and flip her hair at Assyria. Just a few days before, Jerusalem had been hunkered down afraid to show their faces above the wall around the city. Now, Isaiah is prophesying that the people of Jerusalem would behave like someone dismissing a nobody from their presence. You might think of it as Jerusalem confronting the Assyrians with, "Get out of town!"

Then God asks, "Just who do you think you are dealing with here? Who do you think that you insulted, shouted at and looked down on? And then He answers His own question. Sennacherib had been disrespecting the Holy God of Israel. He had insulted the God of the universe. He had offended not the small nation of Judah, but the Creator of all things, the all powerful God.

God listed the bragging rights of the Assyrians. They boasted that they had many chariots. Those chariots had been everywhere the Assyrians wanted them to go. No one could stop them. They bragged that they had conquered the mountains of Lebanon and had cut down the great cedar and cypress trees. When they entered a nation, they dug their own wells, without resistance from the natives, and drank freely of their water. They had even controlled the rivers of Egypt.

Assyria, led by king Sennacherib, was an unstoppable force. They didn't fear anyone. They struck fear into the hearts of their enemy, no matter who that was. But, now things were changing. They had chosen to take on not just a small nation to their south, but also the God of that nation. Sennacherib had said that he would destroy Judah just as he had other nations. He added that just as those nations got no help from the gods, Judah would get no help from their God. Now, looking at it from our day, we realize how foolish Sennacherib was. But, he knew nothing of the true God, and just assumed that these people worshipped helpless gods just like other nations did. Actually that is just what his nation did.

Next, God clarifies what Assyria's role was in reality. Sennacherib thought that he was in control, and that his great military power and strategies were responsible for all the military victories Assyria had accomplished. But God said, "you have another think coming."

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

“Have you not heard,” God asked. This is a revelation to Assyria. God is explaining the true situation. Their self-confidence needed fine tuning. God told them that they could not pat themselves on the back just yet. He said, I’m the one who’s been behind this all along.

All these things that you have been doing, all this destruction you have been causing is not really your work. You have turned strong, well fortified cities into piles of debris. When you leave there is nothing but ruins. The inhabitants of those cities are left homeless and unable to continue living as they once had. They are left like plants that are wilted and need water.

God continues, “I know where you stay...” God assured Sennacherib that he could not hide. God would continue to use him to bring judgment where God chose, but there would come a time when God was through with him.

God knew about the threats and temper tantrums. In the 36th chapter (verse 7ff) Sennacherib told Jerusalem (Hezekiah) that if they were depending on their God it was useless.

Pretty big words, but spoken by a king/general who had conquered many other nations who had depended on their gods. But God said, “Enough!”

God said that He would put a hook in Sennacherib’s nose. That likely means a permanent ring like those placed in the noses of the oxen to which a rope could be tied to lead the ox. He said that He would put a bit in his mouth. As you know, a metal bar is put in a horse’s mouth to which reins are attached for guiding the horse. In other words, Sennacherib would no longer set his own direction, God would. And, God would turn that face back to Assyria, and away from Judah.

What do we read in this Scripture that would help us today?

1. God will not tolerate disrespect. That applies to non-Christians and Christians.
2. God is stronger than anybody...or anything...even great military leaders.
3. God must sometimes use humans, even evil humans, to get His will done.
4. God doesn’t have any trouble finding us, no matter where we are.

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

Page Three

Scripture Memory: “Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it. In the days of old I planned it; now I have brought it to pass...” Isaiah 37:26

Lesson Goal: To challenge students to believe and respect God’s plans and His work.

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

Student Worksheet

Sennacherib Is Doomed—Isaiah 37:21-29

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

1. Though Sennacherib had been threatening Judah, who was he really insulting?
2. What did God list as the bragging rights of the Assyrians?
3. They had chosen to take on, not just a small _____ to their south, but also the _____ of that nation. Sennacherib had said that he would destroy _____ just as he had other nations and just like those nations got no help from the _____, Judah would get no _____ from their God.
4. What do we read in this Scripture that would help us today?

Scripture Memory: “Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it. In the days of old I planned it; now I have brought it to pass...” Isaiah 37:26

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.