

ISAIAH CHAPTER 37

¹ And it came to pass, when King Hezekiah heard *it, that* he tore his clothes, and put on sackcloth, and went up to the house of the Lord. ² And he sent Eliakim the steward, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests clothed with sackcloth, to Isaiah the son of Amoz, the prophet. And they said to him, thus says Hezekiah: ³ "Today is a day of affliction, and reproach, and rebuke, and anger; for the pangs have come upon the travailing *woman*, but she has not the strength to bring forth. ⁴ May the Lord your God hear the words of Rabshakeh, which the king of the Assyrians has sent, to reproach the living God, even to reproach with the words which the Lord your God has heard; therefore you shall pray to your Lord for these that are left."

⁵ So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah. ⁶ And Isaiah said to them, "Thus shall you say to your master, Thus says the Lord: 'Be not afraid at the words which you have heard, in which the ambassadors of the king of the Assyrians have reproached Me. ⁷ Behold, I *will* send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a report, and return to his own country, and he shall fall by the sword in his own land."

⁸ So Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of the Assyrians besieging Libnah; for he had heard that he had departed from Lachish. ⁹ And Tirhakah king of the Ethiopians went forth to attack him. And when he heard it, he turned aside, and sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, ¹⁰ Thus shall you say to Hezekiah king of Judah: "Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, 'Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of the Assyrians.' ¹¹ Have you not heard what the kings of the Assyrians have done, how they have destroyed the whole earth? And shall you be delivered? ¹² Have the gods of the nations which my fathers destroyed delivered them, *be it* Gozan, Haran, or Rezep, which are in the land of Telassar? ¹³ Where are the kings of Hamath? And where *is the king of Arpad*? And where *is the king* of the city of Sepharvaim, *and of Ivah*?"

¹⁴ And Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers, and read it, and went up to the house of the Lord, and opened it before the Lord. ¹⁵ And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord, saying, ¹⁶ "O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, who sits upon the cherubim, You alone are the God of every kingdom of the world; You have made heaven and earth. ¹⁷ Incline Your ear, O Lord, hearken, O Lord; open Your eyes, O Lord, look, O Lord; and behold the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God. ¹⁸ For truly, O Lord, the kings of the Assyrians have laid waste the whole world, and the countries thereof, ¹⁹ and have cast their idols into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone; and they have cast them away. ²⁰ But now, O Lord our God, deliver us from his hands, that every kingdom of the earth may know that You alone are God."

²¹ And Isaiah the son of Amoz was sent to Hezekiah, and said to him, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: "I have heard your prayer to Me concerning Sennacherib king of the Assyrians. ²² This is the word which God has spoken concerning him: 'The virgin daughter of Zion has despised you, and mocked you; the daughter of Jerusalem has shaken her head at you. ²³ Whom have you

reproached and provoked? And against whom have you lifted up your voice? And have you not lifted up your eyes on high against the Holy One of Israel? ²⁴ For you have reproached the Lord by messengers; for you have said, "With the multitude of chariots have I ascended to the height of mountains, and to the sides of Lebanon, and I have cropped the height of his cedars and the beauty of his cypresses, and I entered into the height of the forest region; ²⁵ and I have made a bridge, and dried up the waters, and every pool of water." ²⁶ Have you not heard of these things which I have done of old? I appointed *them* from ancient times; but now have I manifested *My purpose* of desolating nations in *their* strongholds, and them that dwell in strong cities. ²⁷ I weakened *their* hands, and they withered; and they became as dry grass on the housetops, and as grass. ²⁸ But now I know your dwelling place, and your going out, and your coming in. ²⁹ And your wrath in which you have been enraged, and your rage has come up before Me; therefore I will put a hook in your nose, and a bit in your lips, and I will turn you back by the way which you came.'"

³⁰ "And this shall be a sign to you: eat this year what you have sown; and the second year that which is left; and the third year sow, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof. ³¹ And they that are left in Judah shall take root downward, and bear fruit upward; ³² for out of Jerusalem there shall be a remnant, and the saved ones out of Mount Zion; the zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform this.

³³ "Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king of the Assyrians: 'He shall not enter into this city, nor cast a weapon against it, nor bring a shield against it, nor make a rampart around it. ³⁴ But by the way in which he came, by it shall he return, and shall not enter into this city,' says the Lord, ³⁵ 'for I will protect this city to save it for My own sake, and for My servant David's sake.'"

³⁶ And the angel of the Lord went forth, and killed out of the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and eighty-five thousand; and they arose in the morning and found a *multitude* of dead bodies. ³⁷ And Sennacherib king of the Assyrians turned and departed, and dwelt in Nineveh. ³⁸ And while he was worshipping Nisroch his country's god in the house, Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons struck him with swords; and they escaped into Armenia; and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.