

Lesson 14

Isaiah 36–37

**PLACES IN
ISAIAH**



NORTH

Hear, you who are **afar off**, what I have done;
and you who are **near**, acknowledge my might”

Isaiah 33:13

Any relevance to this OLD book?

- It's **God speaking** through Isaiah, so of course!
- It not only warns us against sin, but also helps us to see sin for what it really is.
- Increases our confidence in the inspiration of Scripture, as we track the fulfillment of promises.
- Gives great detail about the dominion of the Lord, and especially how He looks after those who serve Him.
- Paints beautiful words pictures of the Messiah, and of the blessings we experience in Him.

Any relevance to this OLD book?

- Shows God continuing to work His **eternal plan**—in the promises of the Messiah, and how He preserves a remnant.
- Reveals in a vivid way the **character** of the **living** God, in contrast to the **dead** idols men often serve.
- Tells of the **comfort** and **peace** God alone can provide.
- Shows us what it means to **wait**, to **trust**, to **hope** in the living God (examples of those who did and did not).

The Story of Two Men—30 Years Apart

Ahaz—Wearied the Lord

- Jerusalem threatened by Syria and Israel (7:1).
- Ahaz and the people trembled (7:2).
- Assurances were offered by God (7:3–16).
- Ahaz appealed to Assyria for help (2 Kings 16:7).

Hezekiah—Waited on Lord

- Jerusalem threatened by Assyria (36:1).
- Hezekiah and the people trembled (36:22–37:1).
- Assurances were offered by God (37:6–7).
- Hezekiah appealed to God for help (37:14–20).

God, through Isaiah, constantly appeals to us to trust in Him, wait on Him, rely on Him—which all points to one conclusion...

“But without FAITH it is impossible to please Him...” (Hebrews 11:6).

2 Chronicles 32:7–8

Hezekiah: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are **more with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles.**”

Hezekiah's Faith

- Sennacherib's Assyrian army was having great success against the **fortified** cities of Judah (36:1).
- And now the king sends the Rabshakeh (chief military officer) to Jerusalem, accompanied by whom? (36:2).
- He is met by three officials from Jerusalem: Hilkiah, Shebna, and Joah.

Hezekiah's Faith

- The Rabshakeh wants a message delivered to Hezekiah (“In whom do you trust?”—36:5).
 - If you trust in Egypt... (36:6)
 - If you trust in the LORD... (36:7)
 - The 2000 horses—what’s that taunt about? (36:8–9)
 - And who does he claim sent them against the land? (36:10).

Hezekiah's Faith

- Others could hear the Rabshekah, too (36:11), and so what request did these Jerusalem officials make?
- And the Rabshakeh's reply? (36:12).
- The Rabshakeh "doubles down" now, speaking in Hebrew in a _____ voice (36:13).
- Despite offers of peace and security (36:16–17), what one word would summarize this message? (18–20).
 - The LORD can't deliver you! He's no more powerful than other gods whose cities we've taken. *37:3, 6, 23*

Hezekiah's Faith

- These officials, then, gave the Rabshakeh “the what for,” right? (36:21–22).
- Hezekiah tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and then sent these officials to Isaiah with a message (37:1–2).
- The message, and Isaiah's reply (read 37:3–7).
- Hezekiah then received a letter from the king of Assyria, with similar arguments as before (36:10–14).

Hezekiah's Faith

- Hezekiah takes the letter, spreads it before the LORD, and then does what? (read 37:14–20).
- Isaiah then relays God's response to Hezekiah (37:21–35). To summarize:
 - Jerusalem will get the last laugh (37:22–23).
 - You boast of success, not realizing to whom you owe any power you have (37:24–27).
 - Because of your rage against Me, “I will turn you back by the way which you came” (37:28–29).

Hezekiah's Faith

- Isaiah then relays God's response to Hezekiah (37:21–35).
 - A “sign” for Hezekiah—in 3 years you will be free of foreign occupation, and a remnant saved (37:30–32).
 - *37:4: “Lift up your prayer for the remnant...”
 - The king of Assyria will NOT come into Jerusalem; I will defend this city and save it (37:33–35).
- And how did God save them? (37:36).
- Location of Sennacherib's death? Irony? (37:37–38).