

ISAIAH – LESSON FOURTEEN

INTRODUCTION: Historical background of Hezekiah's rule and his relationship with Assyria (2 Kings 18 – 19; 2Chronicles 32:1-23).

I. ASSYRIA'S ATTEMPT TO COMPEL JERUSALEM TO SURRENDER (Chapters 36-37).

- A. Assyria's first attempt: Sennacherib, King of Assyria, sends Rabshakeh to persuade Jerusalem to surrender to Assyria (36:1-37:7).
 - 1. Rabshakeh, with a great army, meets three officers of Judah at the conduit of the upper pool outside of Jerusalem (36:1-3).
 - 2. Rabshakeh ridicules and blasphemes Jerusalem's objects for strength and protection- appeal to trust in Assyria (36:4-20).
 - 3. Officers report to Hezekiah the troubling words of Rabshakeh (36:21-22).
 - 4. Hezekiah sends his officers to Isaiah for hopeful Divine intervention (37:1-4)
 - 5. Isaiah's assuring words from Jehovah – Blaspheming King of Assyrian will return to be slain in his own land (37:5-7).
- B. Assyria's second attempt: Rabshakeh returns with letter from Sennacherib to continue scare tactics in order to persuade Jerusalem to surrender to Assyria (37:8-35).
 - 1. Rabshekah defies Jehovah and appeals to Assyrian conquests to scare Jerusalem into submission (37:8-13).
 - 2. Hezekiah takes letter and lays it before God in the house of Jehovah in prayer (37:14-20).
 - 3. Isaiah's encouraging words to Hezekiah that God has heard and will answer his prayer of intervention against Assyria (37:21-35).
- C. God's intervention against Assyria (37:36-38).
 - 1. 185,000 of Assyria army killed by angel of Jehovah.
 - 2. Sennacherib returns to Ninevah.
 - 3. Sennacherib murdered by sons while worshipping his god.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. How had Hezekiah changed in his relationship with Assyria before his visit from Rabshekah?
- 2. What year of Hezekiah's reign did Sennacherib send Rabshekah to Jerusalem?
- 3. Describe the place where Rabshekah met the officers of Judah at Jerusalem?

4. How did Rabshekah argue against trusting in the following for protection from Assyria:
 - (a). Pharaoh-
 - (b). Jehovah-
 - (c). gods of surrounding nations –

5. Of what “facts” about Jehovah was Rabshekah and Assyria ignorant?

6. What assurance does Rabshekah give to Jerusalem for trusting in Assyria?

7. Describe Rabshekah’s “condescension” towards:
 - (a). Hezekiah –
 - (b). People of Jerusalem -

8. What did Rabshekah refuse to do regarding the request of the three officers of the Jews in Jerusalem?

9. Why did the three officers of the Jews not answer Rabshekah?

10. Did Rabshekah’s words “trouble” the leaders in Jerusalem?

11. What did Hezekiah want to accomplish through Isaiah for God’s people when he sent the officers to him?

12. What was Isaiah’s response?

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13. What did Hezekiah do after Rabshakeh's second attempt to compel Jerusalem to surrender to Assyria?

14. In addition to protecting God's people, what of the King of Assyria's own character was causing Jehovah to bring Assyria down?

15. How does God react to Assyria's condescension with some of His own?

16. What "sign" does Jehovah give Assyria through Isaiah?

17. What does Jehovah promise his people in Jerusalem that Assyria WILL NOT DO?

18. How was Isaiah's prophecy against Assyria "fulfilled"?