



PROPHETIC FULLFILMENT - HISTORICAL EVENTS

Summary of Isaiah 36 and 37

INTRODUCTION

The study of prophecy typically has two messages. One message relates to something that will happen in the near future and a second message that relates to a later period of time. This is true of the book of Isaiah as we study Chapters 1-12.

There are two methods of study. The first method is to study the prophecy and then relate it to the future. The second method is to study the historical events (things that have already taken place) and review the corresponding prophecies.

Chapters 7-12 provide prophecies of both near and future events. The near events in Isaiah's days that have already happened are recorded in Isaiah Chapters 36 and 37. We are selecting the second method and looking at the history first.

Summary of Isaiah 36

(Vs 1-10) Sennacherib messages Hezekiah

Hezekiah was the king of Judah. Sennacherib was the king of Assyria.

The King of Assyria had captured fortified cities of Judah, the southern kingdom. He now sends a field commander with a large army to Hezekiah (king of Judah) in Jerusalem. Hezekiah sends out a delegation of three people (Eliakim, palace administrator; Shebna, secretary; Joah, son of recorder, Asaph) to meet a delegation from Assyria including Rabshakeh, the commander of Assyria army (Also called a Tartan or chief commander); and the Rabsaris (Meaning chief of officers). (2 Kings 18:17) He also brought a great army along.

The field commander has a message for Hezekiah in verses 4-10. Basically, the message is trying to convince Hezekiah to surrender to Sennacherib. The Assyrian king tries to convince Hezekiah that he is powerless by first saying he could not depend on the forces of Egypt. Second, he would give Hezekiah 2,000 horses if he could supply the riders. He is making a mockery the kings power. Finally, Sennacherib mocks the Lord God saying they cannot rely on the Power of the Lord God to protect them.

(Vs 11 - 21) Appeal to the people of Judah by Sennacherib

Hezekiah's delegation wants the message to be confidential with Hezekiah.

The delegation asks the commander to speak only in Aramaic which only they understood, but the commander shouted out to the people in Hebrew so they would understand the message and question Hezekiah's leadership regarding the Lord's power and protection. He was trying to get the people to undermine Hezekiah's teachings. Furthermore, he says the Lord sent him to "march against this country and destroy it".

(Vs 22 - 22) Response of the People of Judah

Silence as directed earlier by Hezekiah. The delegation of three returned to Hezekiah with clothes torn (a sign of sorrow and humility) before the Lord who had been blasphemed by Sennacherib.

Summary of Chapter 37

(Vs 1-4) Hezekiah Responds to the Message

Hezekiah now tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and joins with Eliakim, Shebna, and the leading

priests (all in sackcloth) who go to the temple to meet with Isaiah, the prophet, with a message. The message is that the Lord has been disgraced and ridiculed by Sennacherib, the King of Assyria.

(Vs 5-7) Lord's Response to Hezekiah through Isaiah

Do not be afraid! This is what I, the Lord, am going to do. The Lord will cause the commander to hear a rumor that the Assyrian king needs him elsewhere, and the Lord also promises to have this army literally destroyed (cut down with the sword).

(Vs 8 – 13) Sennacherib tries to intimidate Hezekiah

The army returns to help the king who was fighting in Libnah. Sennacherib now sends messengers back to Hezekiah to convince him to surrender. The message now centers on the gods of the various lands and the Lord God Jehovah.

Their argument is that the gods (idols) of other lands were powerless to deliver them. Next, they make a mockery of the Lord God by saying He is also powerless to deliver them.

Negotiations did not work when offering to join forces, so now Sennacherib tries to reason that he has captured many areas and God would not protect Hezekiah or Jerusalem. He says that no other gods (idols) had saved other territories and why should the Lord God protect Hezekiah. Hezekiah was a faithful man of great strength as recorded in 2 Kings 18:5-7. He trusted in the Lord and the Lord prospered him in all he did.

(Vs 14-20) Hezekiah's Prayer

He first honors the Lord and His position. He then asks the Lord to review all the evil words and actions of Sennacherib. Next, he states that the gods (idols) of other lands have been burned and did not offer protection. He asks for deliverance from his enemies' hands to show that there is only One God. Hezekiah wants God to have the honor and glory.

(Vs 21-35) The Lord's Response to Hezekiah's Prayer

Here is proof that God hears and answers prayer. It also shows the power of prayer (vs 21b) *"Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, ²² this is the word the LORD has spoken against him"*

The Lord states that Assyria has boasted about victories achieved by their own power. Their boasting demonstrates a sense of PRIDE and thus ridicules the Lord. (Vs 21-25).

The Lord also reaffirms that He will defend Jerusalem and it will be saved for the sake of His son, David.

(Vs 36-38) The Rest of the Story

An angel of the Lord had wiped out 185,000 soldiers in the Assyrian camp.

Sennacherib gave up, withdrew from the camp, and returned to capital of Nineveh and stayed there. While worshipping his god, Nisrok, in a temple, the king is killed by 2 of his sons.

Esarhaddon becomes king of Assyria.

A final example of a fulfilled prophecy is derived by comparing the prophecy of Isa 7:3 with the fulfillment in Isa 36:2. In the very same spot uttered in a prophecy, the near prophecy takes place. **Here is another reminder that God will do exactly what he says.** His Word is truth.