

SENNACHERIB'S GOLGOTHA

Isaiah 36 - 37

Introduction: Demands for surrender are terrifying -- Jerusalem must surrender

The chapters for consideration are filled with drama.

36 Rabshakeh presses Jerusalem to surrender without battle.

37 Hezekiah presses the Lord to fight their battle for them. Sennacherib meets martyrdom and death.

NOTE 36-39 is known as historic interlude and clearly marked the second main division in our book

Compare these chapters with 2Kings 18:13-20; 19,20

Evidence: Both accounts taken from same source, or one from the other.

which is the original copy.

I settle between the two -- one author -- real source being God, the Holy Spirit. A third addition -- 2 Chron. 32.

Outline

- I. Surrender Terms of Jerusalem 36:1-22
- II. Studying the surrender terms 37:1-13
- III. Spreading surrender terms before the Lord 37:14-32
- IV. Sennacherib's Golgatha 37:33-38

I. SURRENDER TERMS OF JERUSALEM 36:1-22

v. 1 14th year -- invasion of Judah -- reign of Hezekiah

Sennacherib at war with Egypt -- Judah was on highway from Nineveh to Egypt -- approximately 1000 miles.

No way to Babylon from Egypt except through Judah. Invading armies of ancient empires passed through Samaria and Judah.

Sennacherib fell upon his enemies one by one separately -- took Syria -- Sidon -- other towns.

Army of at least 200,000 men -- swept the land. King not submit to his yoke. Took 46 strong cities -- carried off 200,150 persons old and young. Horses, mules, camels, oxen, countless multitude and shut Hezekiah up in Jerusalem like a bird in a cage. By-passed Jerusalem and came down to Lakish, 40 mi. southwest on way to Egypt.

Does it pay to serve God?

Hezekiah was reforming the nation -- doing good for the people.

Enemies at very door.

v. 2 | PEACE CONFERENCE TALKS BEGIN - Location: on highway of Fuller's field by the conduit of the upper pool.

Proud men love to talk big, tell what they have done.

Rabshakeh chief counsel for Assyria.

Chapter 8 Upper pool -- High, blessing. "The Blessing of the Most High."

Conduit -- end where flows freely

Fuller's field -- field of him who washes garments - makes clean - Lev.17:16

High way - clear path 62:10; 35:8

V. 3 Jerusalem had 3 men — Eliakim, Shebna, Joah.

V. 4 Conference opens with subtle question.

WHAT confidence is this wherein thou trustest?

He meant to call attention to their successes and the only hope for peace was surrender.

Suppose army of 200,000 -- only 10,000. Treasury empty -- Treaties with men like this scraps of paper.

Intention is to put Jehovah on same level with other gods.

Tells why he should surrender:

V. 5. A. SMALL RESOURCES

You say you have strength for war -- But show us! Can trust in Egypt -- God -- consider our might and your weakness

V. 6. B. EGYPT NOT HELP -- ALONE -- No nation will help you.

Broken reed splinters, pierces not aid.

V. 7. C. NO GOD WILL HELP

Fanatic to trust in religion -- How can that help. Your people have not worshipped nor supported Jehovah.

V. 8. D. MAN POWER IS LOW

If given 2,000 horses, you could not find riders. How will you stand against Assyria? Hezekiah can not trust his own army -- No match for enemy.

V.9. E. NO FOREIGN AID IN VIEW

No chariots or horsemen are coming from Egypt. No one will take up arms for you.

V.10. F. COMMISSIONED BY THE LORD to destroy the land.

Frighten the people. Not uneasy about Jehovah, his job is to destroy Jerusalem. Materialist takes things into their own hands.

V.11-13. G. CLEVER PUBLICITY FOR PRESSURE

Spoke loud enough for people on the wall to hear. Propaganda -- create confusion among the people.

V.14-17. H. CONSIDER THE HARDSHIPS

King will deceive you. Make terms with me, I will transfer you to a fertile land of beauty and you will have it easy. People will not endure the seige.

Make an agreement -- Surrender.

V.18. I. NO GOD IS ABLE TO DEFEND JERUSALEM

No confidence in God. Lower your flag.

REcounts how other gods have fallen.

God of Jerusalem do no better

Sounds like those who attack our religion. Spiritually bankrupt.

Devil comes to you and tries to unhinge your faith. Confuse you. Assault God.

In your dark night he questions your hope. Unregenerated man charges blasphemy. Christian tells how his blood cleanses all sin. Let the devil condemn the church.

V. 21-22. How did they meet these 9 reasons for surrender? -- Absolute silence in words, but in actions humiliation. Sorrow, shame, repentant.

This may be a good way to answer some of your critics who make fun of your religious faith -- give him the silent treatment. Let him observe your life in faithful Christian service. This kind of sermon make speak to him!

II. STUDYING SURRENDER TERMS 37:1-13

V. 1 KING'S FIRST REACTION

At end of his resources, entered house of Lord, not to take all of its gold, but place himself and the nation at the mercy of the Lord.

Best way handle malicious enemies is to turn to the Lord. *Nosey Neighbours!* Get close to Lord
Sennacherib not understand God -- Blind -- knew nothing of his power.

TESTIFIED of repentance -- sackcloth -- near to the Lord -- calls for a prayer meeting.

People ought to go to church when they get into trouble -- when they are distressed.

V. 2. DESIRED THE PRAYERS OF a good man.

Sent for Isaiah -- the preacher

V. 3. CONFESSION OF THE KING -- message to the prophet

- Day
1. Trouble
 2. Rebuke
 3. Blasphemy
 4. Helplessness -- Birth.

TROUBLE army outside . Playing with king like a cat with a mouse. Overthrow was in sight. Dare the people oppose the enemy!

He had told them the church was useless. Nation after nation falling

HAMMER and sickle tell us the church is useless

WORLDLINESS stands on outside of walls of church

PEOPLE are falling away becomming apostate.

MINISTERS are confused. Some giving up, service not appreciated. An excellent man resigned last week to go into civil service. He is well trained.

Trouble. Riots Rebellion

REBUKE

People were rebuked by the general for our sometimes godless ways.

Church being rebuked by the world for our sometimes godless ways.

BLASPHEMY

God of Israel

Today it is almost trite for me to repeat the trend "God is dead". Same philosophy of the general.

CBS presented a program last week on "This is America. Good side of nation. A colored Dr. told of his early days. This point. "God is not dead; he is just unemployed."

HELPLESSNESS

2600 years ago war threatened and no hope.

V. 4-5. PRAY FOR US! Important words.

Isaiah put this before the Lord.

- V. 6 TWO THINGS
- 1. Be not afraid
- 2. Your God says

BOLD COURAGEOUS answer by prophet. Isaiah a counsellor to the king.

There was strong favor in trusting in Egypt. Always 5th columnists. Isaiah denounces this group, your strength is confidence in God.

V. 7. PREDICTS his fall and death.

V. 8-9 WITHOUT WARNING Sennacherib finds himself at war with Libnah. Word also arrived that Egypt going to war. Put off his seige of Jerusalem.

~~V. 10. SINNERS HEART FEARLESS~~

~~God not deliver you.~~

V. 10 SINNERS HEART HARDENED

God not deliver you

V. 11 SUCCESSES Heard what Assyrians had done. Trampled on kings. Rumors, various movement of armies. Samaria had fallen. Egypt wanted to keep Assyria busy in Palestine. 490 mi. to Egypt. Had taken Assyria 45 years to reach heart of Palestine. Practical for Egypt to encourage revolutions. Russia same.

Rabshakeh a resourceful man; liked to negotiate. Fool the people. Panic-- you know what happened here or there. Not going to by-pass you!

V. 12. REVIEW

Gods powerless.

V. 13. KINGS POWERLESS. Threatened with loss of Kingdom, captivity, exile of his people; and dishonor of his God.

III. SPREADING SURRENDER TERMS BEFORE THE LORD. 37:14-32.

V. 14. LETTER to assure Hezekiah his retirement was temporary.

PRIVILEGE of the Lord's people. Freedom to come to the throne any time.

If you do not have a refuge in the time of trouble, you had better search for one. Irrreligious man can not rush into the shelter of God and hope for defense just in time of trouble.

HEZEKIAH took his refuge in the church. the Temple. Place of prayer.

Good example for the nation.

Publicly manifest the King's confidence in God's power to save. He was not trusting in Egypt or his own strength.

Your best resource is in God's presence. Put your case in his hands.

Daniel -- Den

Three Hebrew children -- Furnace

Paul and Silas -- Prison

Spread it before the Lord.

V. 15 KING AT PRAYER

V. 16. TO GOD -- dwellest between cherubims -- God of mercy

To God—Kingdoms of earth -- supreme ruler.

To God—made heaven and earth. Creator.

V. 17 GREAT EARNESTNESS . Incline thine ear, bow down

Open thy eye, omniscient

V. 18 Recognizes his city is in danger.

V. 19. Destroy other gods

V. 20. REASONS FOR PRAYER

A. Save the nation.

B. Bring glory to God. Deliverance would exalt God. Enemy had said he could not and would not deliver them.

Hezekiah prays in face of sure defeat -- Human point.

V. 21. ISAAH comes with Jehovah's answer to prayer.

Some may not have paid any attention to the prophet.

V. 22. Preacher said, Jerusalem like a laughing girl. Maiden not adapted to conflict. Laughing at her proud foe. Laugh Sennacherib to scorn. A striking illustration.

V. 23. Holy One of Israel challenged Sennacherib to show his power.

V. 24. Proud boast mountains no barrier. Take timberlands. Boasting of mighty army.

V. 25. Consider God.--- Providences.
 Man digs wells. He dried them up.
 Red Sea. Walk across.

V. 26. Things God decided -- He brought to pass.

V. 27. Plan to settle Promised Land. Enemy like grass.

V. 28. 4 things God knows:

1. Abode
2. Going out
3. Coming in
4. Rage

He knows all about your evil life! Man's doings. All malice and evil projects of the church's enemies under his check. 2 Kings 19:20

V. 29. A Hook -- bridle -- led away. Impossible, you say.

V. 30. Hard times for God's people.

A. This year live on what enemy has left.

B. Next year live on what springs up -- no time to plant anything

C. Third year all fear gone, sow and reap fruits.

V. 31 Judah shall flourish. Peace.

V. 32. Always be a remnant.

IV. SENNACHERIB'S GOLGOTHA v. 33-38.

V. 33 ~~NOT SHOOT~~ one arrow into the city.

Ancient seige -- cast a bank, a mound was raised. Archers were indispensable They continued to shoot at the defenders while men worked on the bank.

Archer shielded by a shield of strong wood covered with leather, it rested on the ground ;in front of the archer for safety and also helped him to take aim.

Mound -- certain height -- take battering rams and ply them against the upper part of the wall, until the wall was opened. Preacher says they are not going to be able to do this.

V. 34. ROUND TRIP TICKET -- same road -- not victory.

V. 35. Jehovah (never forgets his own) -- defend his city. You and poor sinner -- will come to your aid.

When the enemy is a long way from your gate, it is foolish to listen to the preacher -- religion can wait.

They were looking for peace.

Help -- poor erring king -- He will help you.

V. 36. Latest news bulletin -- 185,000 Assyrian soldiers lay down never to rise in this life.

With that many dead, who wouldn't leave?

DEAD CORPSES - Isaiah, like scripture says "Walls of Jericho fell flat." Not only did they fall, but fell flat.

V. 37. The general leaves. No standing against judgment of God.

V. 38. How did Sennacherib King of Assyria die? Not with 185,000 soldiers.

Heathen temple -- place of his golgotha -- Skull -- death -- 2 sons smote him with sword.

Died as a sinner.

THE DESTRUCTION OF SENNACHERIB by Lord Byron

The Assyrians came down like the wolf from the fold,
 And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
 And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
 When the blue waves roll nightly on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when summer is green,
 That host with their banners at sunset were seen;
 Like the leaves of the forest when autumn hath blown,
 That host on the morrow lay wither'd and strown.

For the angel of death spread his wings on the blast,
 And breathed in the face of the foe as he pass'd;
 And the eyes of the sleepers wax'd deadly and chill,
 And their hearts but once heaved, and forever grew still!

And there lay the steed with his nostrils all wide,
 But through it there roll'd not the breath of his pride;
 And the foam of his grasping lay white in the tuff,
 And cold as the spray of the rock-beating surf.

And there lay the rider distorted and pale,
 With the dew on his brow and the rust on his mail;
 And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,
 The lances uplifted, the trumpet unblown.

And the windows of Ashur are loud in their wail,
 And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal;
 And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword,
 Hath melted like snow in the blast of the Lord!