

When Hope Triumphs

Isaiah 37:5-38

Is. 36:3-4 And there came out to him Eliakim, the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah, the son of Asaph, the recorder. And the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: **On what do you rest this trust of yours?**'"

I. The Triumph of Prayer

Is. 37:3-4 They said to him, 'Thus says Hezekiah: This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. It may be that the Lord your God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the Lord your God has heard; **therefore lift up your prayer** for the remnant that is left.'

Is. 37:14-15 Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord and spread it before the Lord. And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord:

Prov. 21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He will.

A. Acknowledges God's Sovereignty

Is. 37:15-16 And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord: 'O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; You have made heaven and earth.'

Dan. 9:4 I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, '**O Lord, the great and awesome God**, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments.'

Matth. 6:9-10 Pray then like this: '**Our Father in heaven**, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

B. Faces Facts

Is. 37:18-19 Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands, and have cast their gods into the fire. For they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed.

C. Humbly Asks God for Help

Is. 37:17 Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God.

Is. 37:20 So now, O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone are the Lord.

Matth. 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

D. Pursues God's Purposes

Is. 37:17 Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God.

Is. 37:20 So now, O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone are the Lord.

II. The Triumph of God's Work

Is. 37:5-7 When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, Isaiah said to them, 'Say to your master, "Thus says the Lord: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the young men of the king of Assyria have reviled me. Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land, and I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.'

Mc. 14:24-27 The Lord of hosts has sworn: 'As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand, that I will break the Assyrian in my land, and on my mountains trample him underfoot; and his yoke shall depart from them, and his burden from their shoulder.' This is the purpose that is purposed concerning the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?

Is. 37:8-10 The Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that the king had left Lachish. Now the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Cush, 'He has set out to fight against you.' And when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, 'Thus shall you speak to Hezekiah king of Judah: "Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria."

Is. 37:11-13 'Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, devoting them to destruction. And shall you be delivered? Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations that my fathers destroyed, Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, the king of Hena, or the king of Ivvah?'

A. God Acts, Triumphant over Human Arrogance

Is. 37:23-24 Whom have you mocked and reviled? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes to the heights? Against the Holy One of Israel! By your servants, you have mocked the Lord, and you have said, 'With my many chariots I have gone up the heights of the mountains, to the far recesses of Lebanon, to cut down its tallest cedars, its choicest cypresses, to come to its remotest height, its most fruitful forest.'

Is. 37:29 Because you have raged against me and your complacency has come to my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will turn you back on the way by which you came.

Is. 13:11 I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless.

Prov. 16:5 Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished.

B. God Acts for His Own Sake

Is. 37:35 For I will defend this city to save it, for My own sake and for the sake of My servant David.

Is. 48:11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.

C. God Acts for Salvation

Is. 37:31-32 And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward. For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

D. God Acts Powerfully

Is. 37:36 And the angel of the Lord went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.

Is. 37:37-38 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home and lived at Nineveh. And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him down with the sword. And after they escaped into the land of Ararat, Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

If you find yourself in difficult circumstances...

- Rest in God's sovereignty and love.
- Look at the situation honestly, from God's perspective.
- Humbly bring your needs to God.
- Consider God's purposes in your situation and be ready to seek them.
- Patiently wait for God's action.

Remember...

- The Lord acts, triumphing over human pride.
- The Lord acts for His own sake.
- The Lord acts to achieve the salvation of souls and the building up of the Church.
- The Lord acts in His time, powerfully and in many ways.

*Are you a part of God's Covenant, the New Covenant
made by Jesus Christ on the cross?*