

Isaiah 36-39 – 3 January 2024

“The Enemy Without & Within”

Introduction

*Isa Section 1 (Chap 1-12), God spoke of the coming judgement but also the coming of Messiah for them!

*Isa Section 2 (Chap 13-23), God addressed mostly foreign nations reminding Israel of justice & salvation

*Isa Section 3 (Chap 24-27), Isaiah’s Apocalypse

*Isa Section 4 (Chap 28-35), ‘Series of Woes & Blessings’

*Now Isa Section 5 (Chap 36-39), is the triumph over Sennacherib’s Assyria but also Hezekiah’s fall

*No other historical account is recorded in scripture
THREE times for us but this one

*God must be wanting us to receive this message

*Interesting that very often after a great victory comes the greatest times of temptation & selfish pride

Today, we look at 3 tactics of the enemy from the life of Hezekiah

#1: The enemy attacks w/ lies & temporary bribes (Chap 36)

Read Vs 1-5

1. That IS the question, “In whom are we trusting”?
2. There’s spiritual war, we will choose a side
 - a. We’re all rebelling against someone
 - b. Choose to rebel against evil

Read Vs 6-7

1. The enemy wants us to doubt our strength to stand against them
 - a. They think we trust in the material (Egypt)
 - b. They misunderstand our relationship w/ God

Read Vs 8-10

1. Bribed to do evil (vs 8-9), and lying that the Lord told them to take over Judah
2. Enemy thinks they have more spiritual insight than you do

Read Vs 11-12

1. Rab-shakeh’s instigating rebellion from within

Read Vs 13-15

1. Enemy tells the people – don't trust the trickery of Hezekiah or in the Lord

Read Vs 16-18a

1. Enemy tells the people – I'll make your life materially prosper...just in a new way

Read Vs 18b-20

1. Enemy tells the people – No god has been able to stand against Assyria, therefore, none can (lie)

Read Vs 21-22

1. So, the people wisely don't answer the enemy until they process & pray (Read Prov 26:4-5)

#2: The enemy persists until God assists (Chap 37)

Read Vs 1-5

1. Hezekiah immediately turns to the Lord in faith and to His prophets that hold his revelation, great!

Read Vs 6-7

1. The promise from God to deliver!
2. All these years of worry will evaporate quickly

Read Vs 8-9

1. Assyria went to the next town of Judah closer to Jerusalem (Libnah) but heard that Egypt was marching against him
 - a. We can't always see just how weak the enemy is becoming
2. This made it urgent for Assyria to get the victory in Jerusalem

Read Vs 10-13

1. Judah, you're bucking the norm, you're fighting the majority, just succumb to the pressure
2. Potiphar's wife came to Joseph 'day by day'

Read Vs 14-20

1. We're told to cast our cares on God
 - a. Read I Pet 5:6-7 - That's right thinking!

2. He says, ‘You are the one true Creator God’
3. He agrees, other gods were defeated but it’s b/c they were false gods
 - a. When the enemy says the truth...agree
4. He asks God to do this for His glory & honor

Read Vs 21-29

1. God replies Sennacherib is just being used as a tool in God’s hands (Read Isa 10:15)
2. God says He’ll turn him back when He chooses

Read Vs 30-32

1. God replies that a remnant from Jerusalem will survive and then thrive

Read Vs 33-35

1. God replies that Jerusalem will not fall

Read Vs 36-38

1. Sennacherib tried explaining away the loss, but didn’t work – His acct written on clay prism

2. When God moves, you don't need a big long explanation, just that God did it!
 - a. Don't explain it scientifically, logically
 - i. Well, how did God speak & create things?
 - b. It's a miracle of supernatural proportions!

#3: The enemy within is worse than the one without (Chap 38-39)

1. Hezekiah (only 39) gets this boil (inflammation)
2. Having awareness that we could die at any time helps us to live for eternal things today
3. There's nothing wrong w/ wanting to stay here & do more work for Christ...but God knows best
 - a. Read Phil 1:22-23, then verse 21
 - b. Let God's decision be known as the best

Read Vs 4-6

1. God is merciful & loving, He hears our prayers
2. In God's mercy, we can talk Him into 2nd best

Read Vs 7-8

1. Like all prophesy of OT, there's a verifying sign
 - a. I Cor 1:22 – The Jews seek a sign
 - b. Matt 12:39 – Where's their faith?
 - c. John 20:29 – Belief comes before full proof

Read Vs 9-15

1. Hezekiah recount his bitter moaning when sick
2. Kind of gross to cling to this life when the Lord specifically called you home to incorruption

Read Vs 16-22

1. In the days following his deliverance, Hezekiah writes this beautiful praise, but didn't keep it!
2. It's better to trust in God (it's time to die), than to trust in man (I need to live)

Read Vs 1

1. IAW Flavius Josephus, Babylon was trying to align w/ Judah against Assyria
2. 'Enemy of my enemy is my friend' thinking

Read Vs 2-4

1. This is Hezekiah bragging about the material prosperity of “his” kingdom (this is vanity)
2. Contrast that Solomon was showing the Queen of Sheba the great things *God* had done
 - a. Read I King 10:1, 4-6 - brag on God, not self

Read Vs 5-7

1. Pride goes before a fall
2. Anytime we ally with unbelievers, we open ourselves up to their sin coming against us next
 - a. From Amos 3:3 – “Can two walk together except they be agreed?”

Read Vs 8

1. Hezekiah developed a short-sighted view
2. Only looking out for self is not a Godly legacy
3. So these last 15 years become very selfish ones
4. These are the years Manasseh is born ruling Israel for the longest (55 years)—most wicked king
5. B. Captivity is b/c of Manasseh (II Kin 21:10)

Conclusion

So, let's be on watch against the attacks of the enemy

1. **The enemy attacks w/ lies & temporary bribes**
 - a. We have to be in God's Word to know the truth and the true shall set us free from lies
 - b. We could be offered this whole world...but it's fleeting and won't satisfy
2. **The enemy persists until God assists**
 - a. Without turning to the Lord, we are helpless
 - b. By turning to the Lord, we see miracles
3. **The enemy w/i is worse than the one w/o**
 - a. Are you focused on ALL your enemies?
 - b. We can be so attentive to fighting 'The Proud Boys' or LGBT pride but...
 - i. Our *own pride* will take us farther from the Lord than anyone else's agenda every will
 - c. The ancient Greek motto "*Know Thyself*" is only made more relevant by II Cor 13:5
 - i. "*Examine yourself whether you be in the faith, prove your own selves.*"