



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"You... ONLY You, O LORD, Are King!"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Is 37:14-20; 2 Kings 18:14-16; 2 Kings 19:20; Phil. 4:6

There are moments when the crisis gets so loud that it fills your entire field of vision. That's where Judah is. Assyria has already taken the fortified cities. Egypt has failed. The enemy is literally outside the walls shouting intimidation into the ears of the people. And Hezekiah, a king who started well, panics. He strips the Temple, gives away what once honored God, and tries to buy relief (2 Ki 18:14-16). But the enemy takes what he's given and says, "I'm still coming." Fear never settles for partial surrender.

Then the Rab-shakeh shows up proclaiming, "*I am the great king*," telling the people not to trust their leaders and not to trust ADONAI. He offers a counterfeit peace and backs it up with facts—real victories, real destruction, real intimidation. When Hezekiah hears it, he tears his clothes, covers himself with sackcloth, and goes into the house of ADONAI (Isa 37:1). He finally recognizes what this moment really is: "*a day of distress, rebuke, and contempt... children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to give birth*" (Isa 37:3). Human strength is spent. Deliverance is needed—but it won't come from horses, alliances, or strategy. And it's right here, at the end of himself, that Hezekiah finally turns fully to the Lord.

1. FAITH BEGINS WHEN WE BRING THE THREAT INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

When the letter arrives—written intimidation, fear in black and white—Hezekiah doesn't call a war council. He doesn't send another payment. He doesn't respond to the enemy at all. "*Then Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it. Then Hezekiah went up to the House of ADONAI and spread it before ADONAI.*" (Isa 37:14). This is the turning point. He doesn't merely tell God about the problem—he lays it out completely in God's presence. Every word. Every threat. Every accusation.

This is what real faith looks like. Not pretending the threat isn't real, and not letting it dominate your thinking—but deliberately **relocating it**. What had been in front of his face is now placed before the Lord. Fear loses its grip when it is brought into the presence of God. And notice the difference from earlier: there's no garment-rending now, no frantic desperation. There's resolve. Hezekiah is no longer reacting to Assyria—he's responding to God. The battle shifts the moment the threat is no longer dictating your actions, but instead is submitted to the Lord who reigns.

2. PRAYER REALIGNS OUR VISION TO WHO GOD TRULY IS

Hezekiah doesn't start his prayer with his problem. He starts with worship. "*ADONAI-Tzva'ot, God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim—You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.*" (Isa 37:16). This is not religious filler. **This is perspective correction.** Hezekiah finally sees what Isaiah has been saying all along: Assyria is not the ultimate power. Nations are not sovereign. Only ADONAI reigns—over *all* the kingdoms of the earth.

This is why prayer begins with who God is. Not because God needs reminding, but because we do. When Hezekiah acknowledges that ADONAI is enthroned above the cherubim—present in the midst of His people yet sovereign over creation—everything else shrinks into proper

proportion. And then he invites God to look: *"Incline Your ear, ADONAI, and hear; open Your eyes, ADONAI, and see."* (Isa 37:17). The threats haven't changed, but Hezekiah's vision and focus has. Prayer doesn't deny reality—it reframes it in the light of who God is.

3. TRUE TRUST REFUSES SUBSTITUTES AND ASKS GOD TO ACT FOR HIS GLORY

Hezekiah does something deeply important here: he acknowledges what is true. *"Truly, ADONAI, the kings of Assyria have devastated all the countries... and have cast their gods into the fire."* (Isa 37:18–19). The intimidation wasn't imaginary. The destruction was real. But then comes clarity: *"for they were not gods, but the work of human hands—wood and stone."* That's the dividing line. Assyria's power was real, but its gods were not. The enemy's argument was built on a false equivalence—*your God is just like theirs*. Hezekiah now sees through it.

So he prays without backup plans: *"Now, ADONAI our God, save us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone are ADONAI."* (Isa 37:20). This is undivided trust. No Egypt. No horses. No plan B. And notice the motive: not personal comfort, not national pride, but God's glory. This is what happens when fear is replaced with faith—you stop asking God to simply fix your situation, and you begin asking Him to reveal who He is through it. And the Lord responds plainly: *"Because you prayed to Me... I have heard you."* (2 Ki 19:20).

CONCLUSION

What changed everything for Hezekiah was not the size of the enemy—it was the clarity of his trust. He stopped blending faith in God with faith in self. He stopped managing fear and started surrendering it. When the numbers didn't add up, when deliverance was humanly impossible, he didn't have to figure it out. He only had to trust the Lord and stay in step with Him.

That's where many of us are right now. The letter has arrived. The pressure is loud. The temptation is to keep trusting God *and* something else—just in case. But Isaiah 37 reminds us that real faith is singular. ADONAI is God alone. When He says go, we go. When He says wait, we wait. And when He says, "I will act," we trust Him—even when the outcome feels impossible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What "letter" are you currently holding that you need to spread before the Lord?
2. How does beginning prayer with who God is change the way you see your situation?
3. Where are you most tempted to mix trust in God with trust in your own plans?
4. Why is it important to acknowledge what is true *and* what is ultimately true?
5. What would it look like for God to be glorified—not just your problem solved?

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CLOSING PRAYER:

ADONAI-Tzva'ot, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim—*You alone are God* over all the kingdoms of the earth. We confess that fear has often shaped our decisions and that we have trusted in what we can control. Today, we bring the letter before You. We lay it out—every threat, every worry, every impossibility. Open our eyes to see who You are. Teach us to trust You without substitutes, without backup plans. Save us, ADONAI—not so we look strong, but so the world may know that *You alone are God*. We fix our eyes on You

B'Shem Yeshua, In Yeshua's Name, *Amen*.