

Make Your Request

Saturday, July 25, 2026
10:04 AM

Good morning Arising Church,

It has been 2 weeks now since Pastor Matt came and brought us a Word that is saving many lives. Are y'all still profoundly grateful for a fearless brother and father who will speak on behalf of God to our church?

I am so thankful for the Perot family and for the sacrifice of Life Changing Ministries to work and intercede on our behalf. With friends like this, we can't lose.

This is the benefit of brotherhood. Having men that love you enough to speak the truth no matter how it makes you feel in the moment. Having men that trust the leading of the Holy Spirit and are loyal to the Word above all else, that's how we continue forward. If you are a single man or woman and you don't have friends like this, get some.

If you are a young married couple and you don't have friends like this, get some.

If you are an established family and you don't have friends like this, get some.

In fact, if you are a son or daughter of God and you don't have friends like this, get some.

We are going to continue in the momentum that the Lord has been building in this house.

By now, as long as humility has been guiding you rather than thin skin that's always looking to be offended about something, you have humbled yourself and committed to making right judgments in the lives of your family, this church and any other relationships.

You also have recognized betrayal in your own heart towards the Lord and how you have soiled your garments which must be removed, you have put on sack cloth and ashes, so that you can be clothed in the divine and have faith for the harvest.

Once again, in our own personal reading from the book of Isaiah this past week, the Lord has given us insight and instruction that we want to share with you today.

- ***Psalm 119:9 in the Amplified says,***
How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping watch [on himself] according to Your word [conforming his life to Your precepts].

We are keeping watch and conforming our lives to His precepts and this is enabling us to keep ourselves pure in the midst of a world that is becoming more and more deceived.

- ***Psalm 119:105 NIV says,***
Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

We don't know where to walk apart from Him. But His Word illuminates the way forward. So today we are privileged to look into His Word that has everything we need. We are going to be learning from the story of Hezekiah found in the book of Isaiah. Let's turn to Isaiah 7 to open up this message.

Make Your Request



In 735 B.C. the king of the northern tribes of Israel had allied himself with the wicked king of Aram to come and attack the southern tribes of Judah in Jerusalem. Although they were unable to overpower it, the fact that these two powerful kings were allied together against Judah caused the king and the people to tremble with fear.

So the prophet Isaiah comes to speak with King Ahaz.

Isaiah 7:3-17 (NIV84)

3 Then the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go out, you and your SON.....

Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field.

- The aqueduct of the upper pool was the source of water for the people
- The washerman's field was where the people would go to wash their clothes that had become stained
- This was the meeting place of the prophet with the king

4 Say to him, 'Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. **5** Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah's son have plotted your ruin, saying, **6** "Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it." **7** Yet this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

"It will not take place,
it will not happen,

8 for the head of Aram is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is **only Rezin**.

Within sixty-five years

Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.

9 The head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is **only Remaliah's son**.

If you do not stand firm in your faith,
you will not stand at all."

- This was a charge for Ahaz to begin making all of his decisions in faith

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, **11** "Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test."

- King Ahaz's discernment was off and the decisions he was making were bad. He could not tell right from wrong.

13 Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? **14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. **15** He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. **16** But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

- The prophecy about the child is layered and it is not within our purview to discuss all of its implications, but for our purposes today it is two fold:
 - It is a condemnation of Ahaz that he can't tell what is right in this situation, a child could do this
 - It also concerns the timing of the events that are about to unfold

***17** The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria.”*

- This is the context of our story today, instead of living by faith and trusting God, King Ahaz allies with the dominant power of the day Assyria by paying them with treasure from the temple of God.
- His son Hezekiah will inherit this bad deal and although he tries to get out from under the hand of Assyria he also submits to their power and also pays them with tribute from the temple of God. After paying them and agreeing to be their slave, the enemy still comes to dominate and destroy Jerusalem. Let's pick up in our story with the son of Ahaz, King Hezekiah in Isaiah 36.

TRANSITION TO SENACHERIB:

Isaiah 36:1-3 (NIV84)

***1** In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them.*

- we can't help but note that's approximately how old we are as a church, and he is approximately 39 years old
- all the defenses were destroyed and compromised and the king and his people were now exposed

***2** Then the king of Assyria sent his field commander with a large army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. When the commander stopped at the **aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field**, **3** Eliakim son of Hilkiah the*

palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went out to him.

- notice the location that the king of Assyria's representative stopped at. The very place where his father chose wrongly with Isaiah, just 19 years earlier
- the place that is the source of life for the city
- the place where the stained clothes were washed clean
- the enemy establishes a stronghold right here, a place for further advancement

Isaiah 36:4–7 (NIV84)

*⁴ The field commander said to them, “Tell Hezekiah, “This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: On what are you basing this **confidence** of yours? ⁵ You say you have strategy and military strength—but you speak only empty words. On whom are you depending, that you rebel against me? ⁶ Look now, you are depending on Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff, which pierces a man’s hand and wounds him if he leans on it! Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who depend on him. ⁷ And if you say to me, “We are depending on the Lord our God”—isn’t he the one whose high places and altars Hezekiah removed, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, “You must worship before this altar”?*

- The first thing Sennacherib attacks is their confidence.
- He is calling out the emptiness of their strategy and military strength, evidenced by the fact that their fortified cities are destroyed or captured and they are surrounded
- Do you see how some of the things he is saying are true? They did destroy the high places and altars and also some of it is not true...God was pleased with them for destroying these
- Its bait, he wants them to engage. he's trying to destroy their confidence and send them into a state of confusion

Isaiah 36:8-10 (NIV)

⁸ “Come now, make a bargain with my master, the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses—if you can put riders on

them! 9 How then can you repulse one officer of the least of my master's officials, even though you are depending on Egypt for chariots and horsemen? 10 Furthermore, have I come to attack and destroy this land without the Lord? The Lord himself told me to march against this country and destroy it."

- What seems to be a bargain or deal, is just further provocation (I'll give you my sword to use, oh wait, you can't even lift it)
- The enemy claims to be sent by GOD!!!
- The prophet Isaiah foretold that he would come, but he was an arrogant dog on a leash

- ***Isaiah 36:11-22 (NIV)***

11 Then Eliakim, Shebna and Joah said to the field commander, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, since we understand it. Don't speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people on the wall."

12 But the commander replied, "Was it only to your master and you that my master sent me to say these things, and not to the men sitting on the wall—who, like you, will have to eat their own filth and drink their own urine?"

- The leaders want this to be private, but the enemy has plans to bring them all down
- Now that he has broken down their confidence he is ready to plant fear into their souls! (**ELABORATE**)
- Do you see how the conversation has changed from persuasion to "do what I say or else."

- ***Isaiah 36:13-15 (NIV)***

13 Then the commander stood and called out in Hebrew, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! 14 This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you. He cannot deliver you! 15 Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the Lord when he says, 'The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'

-your king, your leader is deceiving you, he can't help you, he is persuading you (**elaborate**)

- **False Peace -- offering another way...**

- ***Isaiah 36:16-17 (NIV)***

¹⁶ “Do not listen to Hezekiah. This is what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me and come out to me. Then every one of you will eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern,¹⁷ until I come and take you to a land like your own—a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards.

THE PROMISED LAND

DEUTERONOMY 8:7–10 (ESV)

7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, 8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, 9 a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. 10 And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

SENNACHERIB'S LIES:

Then every one of you will eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern, ¹⁷ until I come and take you to a land like your own—a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards.

- - Don't be *persuaded*
 - Let me *persuade* you

- ***Isaiah 36:18-20 (NIV)***

18 “Do not let Hezekiah mislead you when he says, ‘The Lord will deliver us.’ Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria? 19 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand? 20 Who of all the gods of these countries has been able to save his land from me? How then can the Lord deliver Jerusalem from my hand?”

- By this point you are getting a clear picture of the pure evil deception that Sennacherib and his proxies are sowing... But this deception is not unique to Sennacherib.

(Read Slide)

THE ENEMY IS UN-ORIGINAL		
SENNACHERIB THE ANCIENT TYPE		THE ANTI-CHRIST THE END TIMES FULFILLMENT
Given authority to conquer the saints	2 Kings 18:9-13	Given authority to conquer the saints
Name means “Sin (the moon god) has multiplied brothers”		Worships Allah / the moon god
Offers terms of peace to Israel	2 Kings 18:14-15	Confirms a peace treaty with Israel
Breaks the peace treaty with Israel	2 Kings 18:17	Breaks the peace treaty with Israel
Sets siege to Jerusalem	2 Chron 32:2-5	Sets siege to Jerusalem
Speaks through a Proxy (Rabshakeh)	2 Kings 18:19	Speaks through a False-Prophet
Magnifies himself against all other gods	2 Kings 18:30-33	Magnifies himself against all other gods
The Siege is compared to labor	2 Kings 19:3	Time of trouble is compared to Labor
The Siege is compared to a still-birth	2 Kings 19:4	Time of trouble is compared to a still-birth
Miraculously defeated by an angelic messenger	2 Kings 19:35	Miraculously defeated by Jesus
Hezekiah prays that a remnant will be saved	2 Kings 19:4	In the end times only a remnant is saved
Results in kingdoms knowing God’s power	Isa 37:20	Results in God’s vindication before the nations

- The devil's schemes were the same in Hezekiah's day as they will be in the end... and are the same in your life now!

- We must not be confused, the voice of the Field commanders is not just Sennacherib's it is the voice of the enemy himself. This is how he speaks and this is what he does
 - You must learn to SPOT THE ENEMY'S DEVICES in your own life!
- Consider how the enemy may not be directly attacking you, but using a proxy and you might not even be aware!
 - Careful, these proxies come in various forms that often seem innocent and well meaning
 - Friends
 - Media
 - Family
 - Doctors
 - Bosses
 - Your kids
 - Even your own thoughts
 - Anyone persuading you to rely on something other than the LORD!
- Notice how so many things that he says are partial truths mixed with lies all aimed at causing confusion and fear!
- Let's see the proper response to the enemies lies!
- ***Isaiah 36:21 (NIV)***
21 But the people remained silent and said nothing in reply, because the king had commanded, "Do not answer him."

Why do you think he told them "do not answer him"? Because he is the enemy, he is a liar and there was nothing to be gained from engaging with him

Think back to Gen 3 in the garden. Was there any advantage for Eve having spoken with the snake?

Did God really say?

In 1 Sam 25:17 it says that Nabal is so wicked no one can talk to him. Abigail doesn't speak to him twice in 19 and 36

Stop conversing with the enemy. A liar is not trying to understand you; he is trying to confuse you, reposition you so that you destroy yourself.

- What is it in you that wants to have a conversation with a liar?
- What is it in you that wants to believe the lie?

- ***Proverbs 17:3–4 (NIV)***

*3 The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold,
but the LORD tests the heart.*

***4 A wicked person listens to deceitful lips;
a liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.***

- The old saying "you hear what you want to hear"
- This is a stronghold in your life and the enemy will play on this to strip your confidence and wear you down and instill fear.

John 8:44 (NIV)

44 (SATAN) He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- An enemy with these tactics requires more than just grit and determination, it requires heavenly empowerment!
- Look at what Hezekiah says before the enemy speaks to prepare the people!

This story is told 3 times in scripture, only Chronicles records Hezekiah gathering the people and saying:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles."

—2 Chronicles 32:7–8

Chronicles adds:

“And the people gained **confidence** from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.”

Isaiah 36:22 (NIV)

22 Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went to Hezekiah, with their clothes torn, and told him what the field commander had said.

Isaiah 37:1-2 (NIV84)

1 When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the temple of the Lord. 2 He sent Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and the leading priests, all wearing sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.

- The Lord has been doing this in this house. We have torn our clothes. We have put on sackcloth and this passage was in our daily reading this week.
- The LORD is giving us instruction for what the next step is.
- It is true that Hezekiah has made mistakes. Wrong alliances and bad decisions.
- Look at what Hezekiah has been doing in Chronicles that leads up to this point:
 - His first act as king was to purify the temple. Opens the doors and repaired them
 - Re-establishes the priesthood and consecrates them
 - Re-establishes sacrifices
 - Celebrates the Passover.
- Then Chapter 32, where Assyria comes to attack, begins like this...
- ***2 Chronicles 32:1 (NIV)***

32 **After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done**, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, thinking to conquer them for himself.

- Sennacherib's invasion did not come because Hezekiah had abandoned God. It came **after Hezekiah's acts of faithfulness**.
- **Sometimes the greatest attack comes immediately after the greatest obedience.**
- This attack is like spiritual chemo.
 - Hezekiah is in a place where God can address and fix the unholy alliances or sin in his families. This unholy alliance was made by Hezekiah's father and continued by Hezekiah and now he is in a state where God can deal with this stronghold in his life.
- After putting on sackcloth Hezekiah seeks wisdom and intercession from Isaiah and the lord begins to speak.
- And now we want to take you to what all this has been is leading to
- Hezekiah makes his request to God.

- **Isaiah 37:14–20 (NIV)**

14 Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. **Then he went up to the temple of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD.**

15 And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: 16 "LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. 17 Give ear, LORD, and hear; open your eyes, LORD, and see; listen to all the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God.

18 "It is true, LORD, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste all these peoples and their lands. 19 They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands. 20 Now, LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, LORD, are the only God. "

-Hezekiah lays out the threats of the enemy before the Lord, everything that brings anxiety

-Hezekiah is honest about the facts of what is currently happening
-he then makes his requests before the Lord, not only that they would be delivered, but that through the deliverance all kingdoms of the earth would know that the Lord is the only God

NICKS TESTIMONY

Now let's look at how the Lord responds to Hezekiah's requests.

- **Isaiah 37:21-22 (NIV84)**

²¹ Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, ²² this is the word the Lord has spoken against him:

*"The Virgin Daughter of Zion
despises and mocks you.
The Daughter of Jerusalem
tosses her head as you flee.*

-notice, even after everything that Hezekiah and Judah have gotten wrong, the way God sees her in this repentant state is as **Virgin daughter of Zion**
-now the Lord takes up the taunt against the enemy

Isaiah 37:33–35 (NIV84)

³³ "Therefore this is what the Lord says concerning the king of Assyria:

*"He will not enter this city
or shoot an arrow here.
He will not come before it with **shield**
or build a siege ramp against it.*

*³⁴ By the way that he came **he will return;**
he will not enter this city,"
declares the Lord.*

NET *³⁵ I will shield this city and rescue it for the sake of my reputation and because of my promise to David my servant. ""*

-2 different shields are being referred to, the physical shield that the king of assyria carries and God as the shield for His people in Jerusalem
-the weapons the enemy fights with are no match for the Lord. He is the one who shields Jerusalem, He is the defense and protector of His people

Isaiah 37:36 NIV 84

Then the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies!

- Estimates of Hiroshima and Nagasaki's death toll was between 110,000 and 210,000! A singular angel of God accomplished as much or more devastation than two nuclear bombs in a single night with NO collateral damage to God's people!

○ https://thebulletin.org/2020/08/counting-the-dead-at-hiroshima-and-nagasaki/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

-that is the definition of a tower of strength, a city of refuge

- ***Isaiah 40:25-26 (NIV84)***

²⁵ “To whom will you compare me?

Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift your eyes and look to the heavens:

Who created all these?

*He who brings out the starry host one by one,
and calls them each by name.*

*Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.*

-the commander of the stars, just sent one to wipe out 185,000 men
-any time we think we have an idea of how powerful and capable God is, we are vastly underestimating Him

We want to drive home the point of our message today by taking you to 3 more passages:

Before the northern tribes fell to Assyria, ***Hosea 7:14*** records these words from God about the people:

"They wail upon their beds but they do not cry out to me from their hearts"

There is a difference between weeping because of your anxiety and stress and the situations before you, you must direct your strength properly and here is how.

Philippians 4:6–9 (NIV)

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

-It is clear, you are commanded in each and every situation to pray and make your requests known to God.

-And His peace is promised to be a guard, as you step out to pray.

-Do you see how Hezekiah did this very thing?

-He laid his requests out and God became a guarding shield as he did so

You are called to do the same: pray, making your requests known and He will guard you just the same.

1 Peter 5:6–11 (NIV)

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

-You must humble yourself before God. You do this knowing He will lift you up in due time.

-Just like Hezekiah, you cast your anxiety on Him and watch how He restores, strengthens and establishes you, making you firm and steadfast once again.

Now hear the words of the psalmist.

Psalm 5:1–12 (NIV)

1 Give ear to my words, O Lord , consider my sighing.

2 Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray.

- What does he do? He turns to the Lord and prays

3 In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.

- Just like Paul's words to the church of Philippi and his letter to Peter, you must lay out your requests... and wait, expectantly!

4 You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell.

5 The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong.

6 You destroy those who tell lies; bloodthirsty and deceitful men the Lord abhors.

7 But I, by your great mercy, will come into your house; in reverence will I bow down toward your holy temple.

- Just like when King Hezekiah tears his clothes and puts on sackcloth, what is it that he does next?
- He goes into The Lord's temple, and lays his requests before God

8 Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies- make straight your way before me.

- Do you want your way made straight? Cry out in prayer asking Him to guard you once again.

*9 Not a word from their mouth can be trusted; **their heart is filled with destruction**. Their throat is an open grave; with **their tongue they speak deceit**.*

- There are lies today that want to take you out, and just like Hezekiah you too have to lower yourself before our God, knowing not a word of the enemy can be trusted.

*10 Declare them guilty, O God! **Let their intrigues be their downfall**. **Banish them** for their many sins, for they have rebelled against you.*

*11 But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. **Spread your protection over them**, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.*

- When you humble yourself and cry out to Him....God will banish your enemies from you.
- He will be a shield over you.
- And hear this final verse in the Amplified,

***12 (AMPC)** For You, Lord, will **bless the [uncompromisingly] righteous** [him who is upright and in right standing with You]; as with a **shield You will surround him** with goodwill (pleasure and favor).*

- As you reject the lies of the enemy and not compromise...
- As you turn to God in prayer, you are that righteous man who is in right standing with Him. And what does The Lord do with that man? He surrounds them with favor, with a shield of protection, just as in Hezekiah's day.