

“God Answers” - Isaiah 37:14-20, 30-35

Ask - “How do you typically respond when threatened?”

Background - Though his advisors and other leaders wished to seek help from Egypt when the Assyrians drew near to Jerusalem (see last week’s lessons), King Hezekiah listened to the advice of Isaiah the prophet and turned to the LORD in prayer.

“Hezekiah’s Prayer” - Isaiah 37:14-20

(v14) What was the gist of the message contained in these letters sent by the Assyrians to King Hezekiah (see v10-13)? What did Hezekiah do with them?

(v15-17) How did Hezekiah begin his prayer? How did He describe the LORD? Generally, what did he ask God to do? How had Sennacherib violated God?

(v18-19) What did Hezekiah acknowledge about the Assyrians? Why had they had such success against these other nations?

(v20) Specifically, what did King Hezekiah ask God to do? On what basis did he make this request - for his sake or for the LORD’s? Explain.

HEZEKIAH PRAYED THAT GOD WOULD DELIVER JUDAH AND JERUSALEM FROM THE ASSYRIANS. HE ASKED GOD TO SAVE THEM IN ORDER THAT HIS NAME MIGHT BE MAGNIFIED AMONG THE NATIONS.

“Hope for Deliverance” - Isaiah 37:30-32

(v30) Why were the people of God reliant on what grew naturally from crops and vineyards? How long would it be until it was safe to plant, tend, and reap again?

(v31-32) Would Judah survive the Assyrian invasion? What is a remnant? Who would rescue and sustain this remnant?

THE LORD ANSWERED HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER SAYING THAT THE ASSYRIAN THREAT WOULD PERSIST A WHILE LONGER, BUT WOULD ULTIMATELY FAIL. SOME WOULD PERISH, BUT A REMNANT WOULD BE SPARED.

“Assyria’s Retreat” - Isaiah 37:33-35

(v33) Though the Assyrians encamped near Jerusalem, did they ever formally attack the city?

(v34) What happened that caused the Assyrians to return home by the same

route as they'd come (see v36-37)?

(v35) Why did God defend the city of Jerusalem? How is this consistent with Hezekiah's earlier request in verse 20?

HAVING DEFEATED SEVERAL OTHER CITIES IN ITS CONQUEST OF JUDAH, THE ASSYRIAN ARMY FINALLY MADE ITS WAY TO JERUSALEM. HOWEVER, IT WAS DESTROYED BY GOD BEFORE IT COULD ATTACK.

Application - Hezekiah turned to the LORD for protection and deliverance. As king, he wisely placed the nation in God's hands. Notice that he appealed to God not solely for selfish reasons of self preservation, but rather that God might be magnified. The LORD answered accordingly. In our prayer lives, how often do we pray that God would receive the glory and His name be exalted rather than us just getting what we ask for? Do you think that making our petitions to God in this way would make any difference?