

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 37 — Hezekiah's Prayer and God's Deliverance

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 37 gives the answer to the crisis of Isaiah 36.

Chapter 36 ended with:

Threats.

Blasphemy.

Fear.

Torn clothes.

A powerful Assyrian army.

A surrounded Jerusalem.

But Isaiah 37 begins with:

Prayer.

Hezekiah hears Rabshakeh's words.

He does not immediately answer:

Assyria.

He goes to:

The house of the Lord.

That is the great turning point.

The enemy has spoken.

Now:

Hezekiah seeks God.

The chapter teaches us what faith does when:

The threat is real.

The enemy is powerful.

The odds appear impossible.

The first response is not:

Panic.

Compromise.

Pride.

Counter-propaganda.

It is:

Prayer.

Hezekiah also seeks:

The prophet Isaiah.

He understands that this is not merely:

A political crisis.

It is:

A spiritual crisis.

He asks Isaiah to pray for:

The remnant.

Then God sends the first answer:

“Do not be afraid.”

The Assyrians have spoken:

Loudly.

God speaks:

Authoritatively.

He says Sennacherib will:

Hear a report.

Return home.

Fall by the sword.

Yet Sennacherib does not immediately stop threatening Jerusalem.

He sends another message.

The second threat is even more direct:

“Do not let the God you depend on deceive you.”

The attack has now moved from:

Hezekiah.

To:

God Himself.

What does Hezekiah do?

He takes the letter.

Reads it.

Goes into:

The house of the Lord.

Then:

“Spread it out before the Lord.”

That is one of the most memorable acts of faith in Scripture.

Hezekiah does not deny:

The letter exists.

He does not pretend:

The threat is small.

He does not hide:

His fear.

He places the entire matter:

Before God.

Then he prays.

His prayer begins not with:

Assyria.

But with:

God.

“You alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You made heaven and earth.”

That changes the scale of the crisis.

Sennacherib rules:

An empire.

God rules:

All kingdoms.

Sennacherib has conquered:

Cities.

God created:

Heaven and earth.

Hezekiah also admits:

Assyria really has destroyed nations.

Faith does not require:

Denying facts.

But Hezekiah identifies the crucial difference.

The gods Assyria destroyed were:

Wood.

Stone.

Works of human hands.

The Lord is:

The living God.

Then Hezekiah asks for deliverance so that:

All kingdoms may know that the Lord alone is:

God.

His prayer rises above:

Personal survival.

National preservation.

He is concerned for:

God's glory.

Then comes one of the greatest statements in the chapter:

“Because you have prayed to Me.”

God answers.

Prayer did not make God:

Sovereign.

God was already sovereign.

But prayer was the God-appointed response through which Hezekiah expressed:

Dependence.

Faith.

Submission.

The Lord then exposes Sennacherib's pride.

Assyria boasts:

I climbed.

I conquered.

I cut down.

I dug wells.

I dried rivers.

God answers:

“Long ago I ordained it.”

Assyria mistook:

Permission.

For:

Autonomy.

Instrumentality.

For:

Sovereignty.

Success.

For:

Self-sufficiency.

Then God tells Sennacherib:

“I know where you stay and when you come and go.”

The king who thinks he knows:

Nations.

Routes.

Armies.

Fortresses.

Is himself fully known by:

God.

Then comes the image of:

The hook.

The bit.

God will turn Assyria around.

The empire that led others away in chains will itself be:

Directed.

Then God gives Hezekiah:

A sign.

Judah will survive.

The remnant will:

Take root below.

Bear fruit above.

This is a beautiful picture of:

Recovery.

Stability.

Future fruitfulness.

And finally:

Assyria will not enter Jerusalem.

The enemy will not:

Shoot an arrow.

Build a siege ramp.

Enter the city.

Why?

God says:

“I will defend this city and save it.”

Then the deliverance comes.

The angel of the Lord strikes:

185,000.

Sennacherib leaves.

Returns to:

Nineveh.

And later he is killed in the temple of:

His own god.

The man who mocked the living God dies while worshiping:

An idol that cannot save him.

The chapter therefore ends with the complete reversal of Isaiah 36.

The king who threatened:

Jerusalem.

Cannot protect:

Himself.

The God whom he mocked:

Keeps His Word.

The central truth of Isaiah 37 is:

When Hezekiah carried Assyria’s threats before the Lord in prayer, God answered by exposing Sennacherib’s pride, declaring His sovereign control over history, preserving Judah’s remnant, defending Jerusalem for His own name’s sake, and bringing down the Assyrian king who had mocked the living God.

I. HEZEKIAH GOES TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

Isaiah 37:1 — Trouble Drives the King Toward God

“When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord.”

Hezekiah hears:

Blasphemy.

Threat.

Humiliation.

His response is:

Grief.

Humility.

Worship.

He does not first go to:

Egypt.

Military commanders.

Political advisers.

He goes to:

God.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:1

The parallel account records Hezekiah tearing his clothes, covering himself with sackcloth, and entering the Lord's house after hearing Assyria's words.

2 Chronicles 32:20

Hezekiah and Isaiah respond to the Assyrian crisis by crying out to heaven in prayer.

Joel 1:13

Priests are called to put on sackcloth, mourn, and cry before God during national calamity.

Spiritual Principle

Crisis reveals:

Where we instinctively go.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When bad news tears your heart, let it drive you toward the house of the Lord rather than away from Him.

II. HEZEKIAH SEEKS ISAIAH

Isaiah 37:2 — Leadership Seeks God’s Word

“He sent Eliakim, who was over the palace, Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, all clothed in sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.”

Hezekiah seeks:

Prophetic counsel.

The officials go in:

Sackcloth.

This is not:

Routine diplomacy.

It is:

National humiliation.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:2

Hezekiah sends senior officials and priests to Isaiah to seek God’s word concerning the crisis.

2 Chronicles 32:20

Hezekiah and Isaiah join in prayer regarding Sennacherib’s threats.

Jeremiah 21:1

Later Judean kings likewise send officials to a prophet seeking the Lord’s word during military crisis.

Spiritual Principle

Wise leadership knows when:

Political problems require spiritual discernment.

III. “A DAY OF DISTRESS”

Isaiah 37:3 — No Strength to Give Birth

“They said to him, ‘This is what Hezekiah says: This is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace, as when children come to the point of birth but there is no strength to deliver them.’”

Hezekiah does not minimize:

The situation.

He calls it:

Distress.

Rebuke.

Disgrace.

Then uses a painful picture.

Birth has reached:

The critical moment.

But strength is:

Gone.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:3

Hezekiah uses the same image of a day of distress and children reaching birth without strength for delivery.

Hosea 13:13

A nation under judgment is compared to childbirth where the critical moment arrives but foolish delay creates danger.

Jeremiah 30:6

The prophet uses labor-pain imagery to describe intense national distress.

Spiritual Principle

Faith can honestly say:

“I do not have the strength.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Recognizing weakness is not unbelief when weakness drives us toward God.

IV. PRAY FOR THE REMNANT

Isaiah 37:4 — The Living God Has Been Mocked

“It may be that the Lord your God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke him for the words the Lord your God has heard. Therefore, lift up your prayer for the remnant that is still left.”

Hezekiah sees that the issue has become:

God's honor.

Rabshakeh has mocked:

The living God.

Hezekiah asks Isaiah:

Pray.

For:

The remnant.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:4

Hezekiah asks Isaiah to pray because Assyria has mocked the living God.

Zephaniah 2:9

God promises that a remnant of His people will survive judgment and possess what remains.

Isaiah 10:20

Isaiah earlier promised that a remnant of Israel would no longer depend upon the power that struck them but would rely upon the Holy One of Israel.

Spiritual Principle

One praying remnant can still have:

A future.

V. HEZEKIAH'S OFFICIALS COME TO ISAIAH

Isaiah 37:5 — The Message Is Delivered

“When King Hezekiah's officials came to Isaiah,”

The verse is brief.

But important.

They obey:

The king.

They seek:

The prophet.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:5

The servants of Hezekiah arrive before Isaiah seeking God's answer.

1 Kings 22:13

Royal messengers often approached prophets seeking or influencing prophetic counsel, though true prophets were obligated to speak God's Word faithfully.

Jeremiah 37:3

Officials later approached Jeremiah asking him to pray during another national military crisis.

Spiritual Principle

The crisis requires:

A Word from God.

VI. “DO NOT BE AFRAID”

Isaiah 37:6 — God Answers the Threat

“Isaiah said to them, ‘Tell your master this is what the Lord says: “Do not be afraid of the words you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.””’

Notice:

“Words.”

Assyria's weapon in Isaiah 36 was:

Speech.

Threat.

Mockery.

Intimidation.

God says:

Do not fear:

The words.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:6

Isaiah sends Hezekiah a direct message from God telling him not to fear Assyria's blasphemous words.

Isaiah 51:7

God's people are told not to fear human reproach or be terrified by insults.

Psalms 118:6

Because the Lord is with him, the psalmist refuses to live controlled by fear of what human beings can do.

Spiritual Principle

Words can frighten.

They cannot overrule:

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not give an enemy's words more authority than God's Word.

VII. GOD WILL TURN SENNACHERIB BACK

Isaiah 37:7 — The King Will Fall in His Own Land

"I am going to put a spirit in him so that when he hears a certain report, he will return to his own land, and there I will cause him to fall by the sword."

God already knows:

How Sennacherib will leave.

Why he will leave.

Where he will die.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:7

God promises that the Assyrian king will hear a report, return home, and die by the sword.

Isaiah 37:38

The chapter later records the fulfillment when Sennacherib is killed by his sons in his own land.

Ezekiel 39:6

God demonstrates His authority by sending judgment even upon distant lands and apparently secure powers.

Spiritual Principle

God knows the exit route of the enemy before the enemy knows he is leaving.

VIII. RABSHAKEH RETURNS TO THE ASSYRIAN KING

Isaiah 37:8 — The Military Situation Changes

“Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that he had left Lachish.”

Assyria appears:

Busy.

Mobile.

Powerful.

Campaigns continue.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:8

Rabshakeh returns and finds Sennacherib fighting against Libnah after leaving Lachish.

Jeremiah 34:7

Lachish and other fortified Judean cities later appear as key military strongholds during siege conditions.

2 Chronicles 32:9

Sennacherib’s campaign around Lachish provides the military background for his threats against Jerusalem.

Spiritual Principle

World events may change rapidly.

God remains:

Unchanged.

IX. TIRHAKAH'S ADVANCE CREATES A NEW PRESSURE

Isaiah 37:9 — Another Report Reaches Sennacherib

“Then Sennacherib heard that Tirhakah, king of Cush, was marching out to fight against him. When he heard this, he sent messengers again to Hezekiah, saying:”

Here is the:

Report.

Sennacherib now faces:

Another military concern.

But instead of humbling himself:

He sends more threats.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:9

The Assyrian king hears that Tirhakah is advancing and sends another message to Hezekiah.

Nahum 3:9

Cush is remembered as a significant regional power capable of supporting military resistance.

2 Chronicles 32:10

Sennacherib continues trying to undermine Jerusalem's confidence through threatening messages.

Spiritual Principle

Pressure does not automatically:

Humble.

Sometimes pride responds by becoming:

Louder.

X. SENNACHERIB ACCUSES GOD OF DECEPTION

Isaiah 37:10 — “Do Not Let God Deceive You”

“Say this to Hezekiah king of Judah: Do not let the God you depend on deceive you when He says, ‘Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.’”

This is:

Blasphemy.

Sennacherib now directly accuses:

God.

Of:

Deception.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:10

Sennacherib warns Hezekiah not to be deceived by faith in God’s promise.

Isaiah 36:15

Rabshakeh had already warned the people not to trust Hezekiah’s assurance that the Lord would deliver Jerusalem.

Psalms 27:1

In contrast, the psalmist declares that the Lord is light, salvation, and stronghold, leaving no ultimate reason for fear.

Spiritual Principle

The enemy attacks God’s promises by attacking:

God’s character.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Every temptation to distrust God eventually becomes a question about whether God is truthful.

XI. ASSYRIA APPEALS TO ITS RECORD

Isaiah 37:11 — “Will You Be Delivered?”

“Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the lands, destroying them completely. Will you be delivered?”

Assyria says:

Look at history.

Look at our record.

Look at everyone else.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:11

Sennacherib cites Assyria’s victories over many lands as evidence that Jerusalem cannot escape.

Isaiah 10:13

Assyria boasts that its own strength and wisdom produced its conquests.

Isaiah 10:14

Assyria compares the nations’ wealth to abandoned eggs gathered without resistance.

Spiritual Principle

Past success can become:

False prophecy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What happened to someone else does not determine what God has appointed for you.

XII. THE GODS OF THE NATIONS FAILED

Isaiah 37:12 — Dead Gods Cannot Save

“Did the gods of the nations my fathers destroyed—Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden in Telassar—deliver them?”

Sennacherib’s logic is:

Their gods failed.

Your God will fail.

But the comparison is:

False.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:12

The Assyrian king names previously conquered peoples whose gods could not save them.

2 Kings 17:6

Assyria had conquered the northern kingdom and relocated many of its people, strengthening its reputation for invincibility.

Ezekiel 27:23

Haran and other cities were known throughout the region and appear in the broader political and commercial world of the ancient Near East.

Spiritual Principle

A dead idol's failure tells us nothing about:

The living God's power.

XIII. “WHERE ARE THE KINGS?”

Isaiah 37:13 — Assyria's Boast Continues

“Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, or the kings of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?”

These kings are:

Gone.

Assyria wants Hezekiah to see himself as:

Next.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:13

Sennacherib names fallen kings and conquered cities as evidence of Assyria's superiority.

Isaiah 36:19

Rabshakeh had already asked where the gods of these conquered cities were.

2 Kings 18:34

The same defeated cities are used to intimidate Jerusalem.

Spiritual Principle

Fear says:

“You are next.”

Faith asks:

“What has God said?”

XIV. HEZEKIAH SPREADS THE LETTER BEFORE THE LORD

Isaiah 37:14 — The Threat Becomes a Prayer Matter

“Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers, read it, then went up to the house of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord.”

This may be the most memorable scene in the chapter.

Hezekiah:

Reads.

Goes.

Spreads.

Prays.

He does not deny the letter.

He brings:

The actual threat.

Before:

God.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:14

Hezekiah takes Sennacherib’s letter into the Lord’s house and spreads it before God.

2 Chronicles 32:20

Hezekiah and Isaiah cry out to heaven concerning Assyria.

Nehemiah 9:32

Later believers similarly appeal to the great, mighty, faithful God while acknowledging the distress faced by His people.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer is where:

Threat.

Meets:

Sovereignty.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When the letter is too heavy to carry in your heart, spread it before the Lord.

XV. HEZEKIAH PRAYS

Isaiah 37:15 — Crisis Becomes Communion

“And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord:”

Simple.

Direct.

Powerful.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:15

The parallel account introduces Hezekiah’s prayer before God.

James 5:16

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective when offered in faith.

Psalms 86:1

The psalmist asks the Lord to listen and answer because he is needy and dependent.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer begins when:

We stop merely rehearsing the threat.

And begin:

Addressing God.

XVI. HEZEKIAH BEGINS WITH GOD’S GREATNESS

Isaiah 37:16 — Creator and King

“O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, You alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You made heaven and earth.”

Hezekiah does not begin:

Assyria is strong.

He begins:

God is greater.

He identifies God as:

Lord of hosts.

God of Israel.

Enthroned.

Sovereign over kingdoms.

Creator.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:15

Hezekiah confesses that the Lord alone is God over all kingdoms and Creator of heaven and earth.

Psalms 80:1

God is addressed as the Shepherd of Israel enthroned above the cherubim.

Exodus 25:22

God promised to meet His people above the ark, between the cherubim, in connection with His covenant presence.

Spiritual Principle

Good prayer begins by remembering:

Who God is.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Before telling God how big the problem is, remind your own heart how big God is.

XVII. “BEND YOUR EAR AND HEAR”

Isaiah 37:17 — Hezekiah Appeals to the Living God

“Bend Your ear, Lord, and hear; open Your eyes, Lord, and see. Listen to all the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God.”

Hezekiah is not asking God for:

Information.

He is expressing:

Dependence.

Appeal.

Urgency.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:16

Hezekiah asks God to hear and see the words by which Sennacherib has mocked the living God.

Psalms 17:6

The psalmist calls upon God with confidence that He hears prayer.

Daniel 9:18

Daniel asks God to incline His ear and open His eyes to the desolation of His people.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer brings insult against God:

Back to God.

XVIII. HEZEKIAH ADMITS ASSYRIA’S POWER

Isaiah 37:18 — Faith Does Not Deny Facts

“It is true, Lord, that the kings of Assyria have laid waste all these nations and their lands.”

Hezekiah says:

“It is true.”

He does not pretend:

Assyria has no victories.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:17

Hezekiah openly acknowledges Assyria's real success against many nations.

2 Chronicles 32:1

Assyria had genuinely invaded Judah and threatened fortified cities.

Isaiah 10:13

The Assyrian king boasts about his conquests, which were historically real even though his interpretation of them was prideful.

Spiritual Principle

Faith does not need:

Fake facts.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Faith can admit the problem is real without admitting the problem is sovereign.

XIX. THE GODS THEY DESTROYED WERE NOT GODS

Isaiah 37:19 — Wood and Stone Cannot Save

“They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but the work of human hands—wood and stone.”

Here is the flaw in Sennacherib's argument.

Those gods were:

Manufactured.

Created.

Dead.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:18

Hezekiah explains that Assyria destroyed the idols because they were not true gods.

Psalm 115:4

The idols of the nations are silver and gold made by human hands.

Jeremiah 10:3

Idols are shaped from created materials by human craftsmanship and possess no divine life.

Spiritual Principle

An idol can be:

Destroyed.

The Creator cannot.

XX. HEZEKIAH PRAYS FOR GOD’S GLORY

Isaiah 37:20 — “So the Kingdoms May Know”

“Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, O Lord, are God.”

This is a mature prayer.

Deliver us.

But why?

Not merely:

For our comfort.

So:

The world may know.

Cross References**2 Kings 19:19**

Hezekiah asks for deliverance so all kingdoms may know that the Lord alone is God.

1 Kings 8:60

Solomon prayed that all peoples of the earth would know the Lord is God and there is no other.

Ezekiel 36:23

God promises to vindicate the holiness of His great name before the nations.

Spiritual Principle

The highest prayers connect:

Our need.

With:

God's glory.

XXI. “BECAUSE YOU HAVE PRAYED”

Isaiah 37:21 — God Answers Hezekiah

“Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent this message to Hezekiah: ‘This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Because you have prayed to Me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria,’”

What a statement:

“Because you have prayed.”

God acknowledges:

Prayer.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:20

Isaiah tells Hezekiah that God has heard his prayer concerning Sennacherib.

Daniel 9:23

Daniel is told that an answer went out when he began praying because he was greatly loved.

Psalms 65:2

God is praised as the One who hears prayer.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer matters because:

God listens.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never treat prayer as the last resort when Scripture presents it as real participation in dependence upon God.

XXII. ZION WILL MOCK ASSYRIA'S PRIDE

Isaiah 37:22 — The Tables Are Turned

“This is the word the Lord has spoken against him: ‘The Virgin Daughter of Zion despises you and mocks you. The Daughter of Jerusalem shakes her head at you.’”

Assyria mocked:

Jerusalem.

Now:

Jerusalem is pictured mocking Assyria.

Why?

Because the supposedly invincible empire is about to:

Fail.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:21

The parallel account describes Zion scorning and shaking her head at the Assyrian king.

Lamentations 2:15

Mocking enemies once shook their heads at Jerusalem; Isaiah now reverses that humiliation.

Psalms 22:7

Head-shaking is a biblical expression of mockery and contempt.

Spiritual Principle

God can reverse:

Humiliation.

XXIII. ASSYRIA HAS MOCKED THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL

Isaiah 37:23 — The True Target of Assyrian Pride

“Whom have you mocked and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride? Against the Holy One of Israel!”

God identifies:

The offense.

Sennacherib thought he mocked:

Hezekiah.

Jerusalem.

Judah.

In reality:

The Holy One of Israel.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:22

God exposes Sennacherib's blasphemy as directed against the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 5:19

Earlier scoffers arrogantly challenged the Holy One of Israel to act.

Psalms 74:22

God is asked to rise and defend His own cause against those who mock Him.

Spiritual Principle

Pride becomes most serious when it lifts itself:

Against God.

XXIV. ASSYRIA BOASTS IN ITS ACHIEVEMENTS

Isaiah 37:24 — “I Have Climbed”

“By your messengers you have ridiculed the Lord. You said, ‘With the multitude of my chariots I have climbed the heights of the mountains, the utmost heights of Lebanon. I have cut down its tallest cedars, the choicest of its junipers. I have reached its remotest heights, the finest of its forests.’”

Listen to the repeated:

I.

I climbed.

I cut.

I reached.

Pride makes:

Self.

The center of:

History.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:23

Sennacherib's boasting about mountains, chariots, and forests is repeated in the parallel account.

Isaiah 10:33

God had already warned that He could cut down the lofty and proud like great trees.

Isaiah 14:13

Proud rebellion is pictured with repeated "I will" statements seeking exaltation.

Spiritual Principle

Pride loves the pronoun:

I.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Success becomes dangerous when gratitude disappears and self-exaltation takes its place.

XXV. ASSYRIA BOASTS OF UNLIMITED REACH

Isaiah 37:25 — "I Dug Wells"

"I have dug wells in foreign lands and drunk the waters. With the soles of my feet I dried up all the streams of Egypt."

Sennacherib portrays himself as:

Unstoppable.

No geography:

Stops him.

No water system:

Restrains him.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:24

The Assyrian boast about digging wells and overcoming rivers appears in the parallel narrative.

Isaiah 19:5

Isaiah had spoken of waters drying up in Egypt under divine judgment.

Isaiah 19:6

Streams and canals wither under God's authority, showing that the control Sennacherib claims actually belongs ultimately to the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Human boasting often takes credit for:

What God alone controls.

XXVI. GOD REVEALS WHO REALLY PLANNED HISTORY

Isaiah 37:26 — “Long Ago I Ordained It”

“Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it. In days of old I planned it; now I have brought it to pass, that you would turn fortified cities into piles of rubble.”

Here God corrects:

Assyria's interpretation of history.

Assyria says:

I accomplished this.

God says:

I ordained.

I planned.

I brought it to pass.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:25

God declares that Assyria's victories occurred within His long-established purpose.

Isaiah 46:10

God declares the end from the beginning and accomplishes His purpose according to His counsel.

Acts 15:18

God's works are known within His purpose and are not surprises to Him.

Spiritual Principle

Success does not prove:

Independence from God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Assyria thought it was writing history.

God reveals it had been operating inside a history He already knew and governed.

XXVII. THE CONQUERED NATIONS WERE WEAK UNDER GOD'S PURPOSE

Isaiah 37:27 — Grass on the Housetop

“Their people, drained of power, are dismayed and put to shame. They are like plants in the field, like tender green shoots, like grass sprouting on the housetops, scorched before it grows up.”

Assyria saw:

Easy victories.

God saw:

People permitted to become weak.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:26

The parallel passage compares defeated peoples to fragile plants and grass scorched before maturity.

Isaiah 40:6

Humanity is compared to grass and its glory to a fading flower.

Psalms 90:5

Human life is pictured as grass that flourishes briefly and then withers.

Spiritual Principle

Human power is:

More fragile.

Than empires like to admit.

XXVIII. GOD KNOWS SENNACHERIB COMPLETELY

Isaiah 37:28 — Every Movement Known

“But I know where you stay and when you come and go, and how you rage against Me.”

Sennacherib gathers:

Intelligence.

Counts:

Cities.

Plans:

Routes.

God knows:

Him.

Completely.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:27

God declares complete knowledge of Sennacherib’s movements and rage.

Psalms 139:2

God knows when a person sits and rises and understands thoughts from afar.

Psalms 121:8

The Lord watches over the going out and coming in of His people.

Spiritual Principle

The one who thinks he controls:

Everything.

Is completely known by:

God.

XXIX. GOD PUTS A HOOK IN ASSYRIA

Isaiah 37:29 — The Conqueror Becomes Controlled

“Because you rage against Me, and because your insolence has reached My ears, I will put My hook in your nose and My bit in your mouth, and I will make you return by the way you came.”

Assyria had led captives:

Away.

Now God uses imagery of:

Controlling an animal.

The ruler becomes:

Ruled.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:28

God promises to turn Assyria back with a hook and bit because of its insolence.

Ezekiel 29:4

God uses hook imagery to describe His authority over proud rulers who imagine themselves powerful.

Ezekiel 38:4

God again pictures Himself controlling hostile powers with hooks and turning them according to His purpose.

Spiritual Principle

The power that drags others away can itself be:

Dragged back.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The empire that put hooks in others discovered that God held the larger hook.

XXX. GOD GIVES HEZEKIAH A SIGN

Isaiah 37:30 — Life Will Return to Normal

“This will be the sign for you, Hezekiah: This year you will eat what grows by itself, and the second year what springs from that. But in the third year sow and reap, plant vineyards and eat their fruit.”

War has disrupted:

Agriculture.

Normal life.

God promises:

Recovery.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:29

The same sign promises spontaneous food followed by restored planting and harvest.

Leviticus 25:20

God had previously taught Israel to trust Him for provision during agricultural interruption.

Exodus 3:12

God sometimes confirms His promises with signs that become evident as His plan unfolds.

Spiritual Principle

Deliverance is not merely:

Surviving tonight.

God has plans for:

Future harvests.

XXXI. THE REMNANT TAKES ROOT AND BEARS FRUIT

Isaiah 37:31 — Roots Below, Fruit Above

“Once more a remnant of the kingdom of Judah will take root below and bear fruit above.”

This is one of Isaiah’s great pictures.

Root:

Below.

Fruit:

Above.

Stability before:

Productivity.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:30

The surviving remnant of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

Isaiah 27:6

Jacob will take root, Israel will blossom, and fruitfulness will spread.

Hosea 14:5

God promises restored Israel deep roots and renewed flourishing.

Spiritual Principle

Healthy fruit requires:

Deep roots.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God often rebuilds below the surface before He displays fruit above it.

XXXII. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD WILL ACCOMPLISH IT

Isaiah 37:32 — The Remnant Comes from Zion

“For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

Who accomplishes:

Restoration?

“The zeal of the Lord.”

Cross References

2 Kings 19:31

The parallel account promises survivors from Zion through the Lord's zeal.

Isaiah 9:7

The everlasting rule of the promised King is established by the zeal of the Lord Almighty.

Micah 4:7

God promises to make the remnant into a strong people under His reign.

Spiritual Principle

The remnant survives because:

God is committed.

XXXIII. ASSYRIA WILL NOT ENTER THE CITY

Isaiah 37:33 — Not Even an Arrow

“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.’”

God becomes:

Specific.

No entrance.

No arrow.

No shield.

No siege ramp.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:32

God promises that Sennacherib will not enter Jerusalem, shoot an arrow, or complete a siege against it.

2 Chronicles 32:21

The Lord destroys Assyria's fighting strength without Jerusalem being conquered.

Isaiah 37:29

God had already declared He would turn Sennacherib back the way he came.

Spiritual Principle

God's promises can be:

Precise.

XXXIV. SENNACHERIB WILL RETURN THE WAY HE CAME

Isaiah 37:34 — The Threat Turns Around

“By the way that he came he will return; he will not enter this city,” declares the Lord.”

The path toward:

Jerusalem.

Becomes the path:

Away from Jerusalem.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:33

God repeats that Sennacherib will return by the route he came without entering the city.

Isaiah 10:24

God had earlier told Zion not to remain controlled by fear of Assyria.

Proverbs 16:9

People plan their course, but the Lord ultimately directs their steps.

Spiritual Principle

God can reverse the direction of:

A threat.

XXXV. “I WILL DEFEND THIS CITY”

Isaiah 37:35 — God's Name and David's Covenant

“I will defend this city and save it, for My own sake and for the sake of My servant David.”

God's deliverance rests on:

His own name.

His covenant faithfulness.

Not:

Jerusalem's military superiority.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:34

God promises to shield and save Jerusalem for His own sake and because of His covenant with David.

Isaiah 38:6

God later repeats His promise to deliver Jerusalem from Assyria.

2 Samuel 7:12

God's covenant with David promised an enduring royal line and kingdom according to His purpose.

Spiritual Principle

God's faithfulness rests:

Ultimately.

On:

His own character.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The strongest reason God remains faithful is not our strength but His name.

XXXVI. THE ANGEL OF THE LORD STRIKES THE ASSYRIAN CAMP

Isaiah 37:36 — 185,000 Fall

“Then the angel of the Lord went out and struck down 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies!”

Jerusalem does not:

Charge out.

Win a conventional battle.

God acts.

The number emphasizes:

The scale.

The decisiveness.

Of divine intervention.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:35

The parallel account records 185,000 Assyrians struck in one night by the angel of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 32:21

The Lord sends an angel who destroys Assyria's warriors and leaders.

Psalms 76:5

Powerful warriors are pictured lying helpless when God intervenes in judgment.

Spiritual Principle

God does not need:

Equal numbers.

To win.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Assyria counted armies.

God determined outcomes.

XXXVII. SENNACHERIB WITHDRAWS

Isaiah 37:37 — The Great King Goes Home

“So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.”

The one who came:

Confidently.

Leaves:

Defeated.

The boastful march:

Stops.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:36

Sennacherib departs and returns to Nineveh after the destruction of his army.

Jonah 1:2

Nineveh is identified as the great Assyrian city to which God later sends Jonah.

Nahum 1:1

Nahum's prophecy later announces judgment against Nineveh itself.

Spiritual Principle

Every earthly empire eventually has to:

Go home.

XXXVIII. SENNACHERIB DIES IN THE TEMPLE OF HIS GOD

Isaiah 37:38 — The Idol Cannot Save the Worshiper

“One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelek and Sharezer struck him down with the sword, and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son succeeded him as king.”

The irony is severe.

Sennacherib had mocked:

The living God.

He had claimed:

God could not save Jerusalem.

Then Sennacherib himself dies:

Inside the temple.

Of:

His god.

And Nisroch does not:

Save him.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:37

The parallel account records Sennacherib's assassination by his sons while worshiping Nisroch.

2 Chronicles 32:21

Sennacherib returns in disgrace and is later killed by members of his own family.

Ezra 4:2

Esarhaddon is later named as an Assyrian ruler connected with population movements in the region.

Spiritual Principle

The idol Sennacherib trusted could not protect:

Its own worshiper.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sennacherib asked:

“Can your God save you?”

His own death eventually answered:

“Can your god save you?”

XXXIX. TEN GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 37

1. Bring the Threat to God

Principle:

What frightens you should become material for prayer.

2. Do Not Fear the Enemy's Words More Than God's Word

Principle:

Threatening speech has no authority to overturn divine promise.

3. Faith Admits the Facts

Hezekiah says:

“It is true.”

Principle:

Faith does not require denial; it requires placing facts beneath God's sovereignty.

4. Begin Prayer with Who God Is

Principle:

The size of the crisis changes when seen beside the greatness of God.

5. Seek Deliverance for God's Glory

Principle:

The highest prayer asks that God's name be known through His saving work.

6. God Rules History

Principle:

Assyria's victories existed inside God's sovereign plan, not outside it.

7. Pride Misreads Providence

Principle:

Being permitted to succeed does not mean God has surrendered His authority.

8. The Remnant Will Survive

Principle:

God can preserve life, roots, fruit, and future even after devastating crisis.

9. God Can Defend Without Human Strength

Principle:

Jerusalem was saved by divine intervention rather than superior military power.

10. Idols Cannot Save

Principle:

The living God delivered Jerusalem; Sennacherib's god could not deliver Sennacherib.

XL. WHAT ISAIAH 37 TEACHES ABOUT PRAYER

Prayer is:

Not denial.

Not escape.

Not magic.

It is:

Faithful dependence upon the sovereign God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Hezekiah did not throw away the letter.

He prayed over the letter.

XLI. WHAT ISAIAH 37 TEACHES ABOUT FEAR

God's first message is:

"Do not be afraid."

Why?

Because fear had attached:

Too much authority.

To Assyria's words.

Spiritual Principle

Fear becomes spiritually dangerous when the enemy's voice sounds more final than:

God's voice.

XLII. WHAT ISAIAH 37 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S WORD

Rabshakeh speaks.

Sennacherib writes.

Isaiah speaks:

God's Word.

Guess which one stands.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The loudest message is not necessarily the lasting message.

XLIII. WHAT ISAIAH 37 TEACHES ABOUT FACTS

Assyria truly had:

Conquered nations.

Destroyed idols.

Won battles.

Hezekiah never denies it.

Spiritual Principle

Facts are servants of truth.

They are not replacements for:

God.

XLIV. WHAT ISAIAH 37 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S GLORY

Hezekiah wants the world to know:

God alone is Lord.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Prayer rises to maturity when God's glory becomes greater than our comfort.

XLV. WHAT ISAIAH 37 TEACHES ABOUT HISTORY

God says:

“Long ago I ordained it.”

This does not mean Assyria was innocent.

It means:

History was never outside God’s sovereign knowledge and purpose.

Spiritual Principle

Human responsibility and divine sovereignty operate together without making God the author of Assyria’s pride.

XLVI. WHAT ISAIAH 37 TEACHES ABOUT PRIDE

Sennacherib repeatedly says:

I.

God responds:

I ordained.

I planned.

I know.

I will turn you back.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Human pride writes “I” across achievements God has permitted.

XLVII. WHAT ISAIAH 37 TEACHES ABOUT GOD’S KNOWLEDGE

God knows:

Where Sennacherib stays.

When he leaves.

When he returns.

How he rages.

Spiritual Principle

Nothing about the enemy is:

Unknown to God.

XLVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 37 TEACHES ABOUT THE REMNANT

Judah's future appears:

Small.

But not:

Dead.

The remnant will:

Root.

Fruit.

Survive.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can build tomorrow from what looks like only a remnant today.

XLIX. WHAT ISAIAH 37 TEACHES ABOUT DELIVERANCE

God's rescue is:

Direct.

Decisive.

Unexpected.

Spiritual Principle

God is not limited to the methods we can imagine.

L. SPREAD IT BEFORE THE LORD

A letter.

Medical result.

Financial problem.

Family crisis.

Accusation.

Threat.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Whatever you keep rereading in fear may be something you need to spread before God in prayer.

LI. TORN CLOTHES BECOME PRAYER

Chapter 36 ends:

Garments torn.

Chapter 37 begins:

Hezekiah before God.

Spiritual Principle

Grief can become:

Prayer.

LII. SACKCLOTH BEFORE STRATEGY

Hezekiah humbles himself.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Humility before God is often wiser than frantic action before people.

LIII. THE DAY WITH NO STRENGTH

Hezekiah says:

The child is ready.

There is no strength.

Spiritual Principle

Human inability may become the stage for:

Divine sufficiency.

LIV. PRAY FOR THE REMNANT

Hezekiah does not assume:

Everyone will survive.

He asks for:

The remnant.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When everything cannot be saved, pray faithfully for what God intends to preserve.

LV. “DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THE WORDS”

Words can:

Enter the mind.

Create pictures.

Produce panic.

Spiritual Principle

Filter threatening words through:

God’s truth.

LVI. ANOTHER THREAT ARRIVES

After the first promise:

The enemy sends another message.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A new threat does not cancel an old promise from God.

LVII. “DO NOT LET YOUR GOD DECEIVE YOU”

This is the serpent-like accusation:

God cannot be trusted.

Spiritual Principle

Faith always involves confidence in:

God’s character.

LVIII. HEZEKIAH READS THE LETTER

He does not:

Ignore it.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Faith faces reality before bringing reality before God.

LIX. HE SPREADS IT OUT

The physical act expresses:

Surrender.

Spiritual Principle

Some burdens become clearer when prayer says:

“Lord, here it is.”

LX. HEZEKIAH’S FIRST WORDS ARE ABOUT GOD

Not:

Sennacherib.

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The direction of prayer should move the heart from problem-centered thinking toward God-centered trust.

LXI. “YOU ALONE ARE GOD”

This is:

Theological foundation.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer becomes stronger when built on:

True doctrine.

LXII. CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

Assyria rules:

Land.

God made:

Land.

Heaven.

Everything.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never compare a created king with the Creator as though they occupy the same category.

LXIII. “IT IS TRUE”

Faith can say:

The diagnosis is true.

The debt is real.

The threat exists.

The army is strong.

Spiritual Principle

Faith does not require pretending reality is easier than it is.

LXIV. “THEY WERE NOT GODS”

Here is the difference.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The failure of idols cannot become evidence against the living God.

LXV. “SO ALL KINGDOMS MAY KNOW”

Deliverance becomes:

Witness.

Spiritual Principle

God can make private crisis become public testimony.

LXVI. “BECAUSE YOU HAVE PRAYED”

What a phrase.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God honors prayerful dependence because it acknowledges who He is and who we are.

LXVII. ASSYRIA’S “I”

I climbed.

I cut.

I reached.

I dug.

I dried.

Spiritual Principle

Pride tells the story of success without mentioning:

God.

LXVIII. GOD’S “I”

I ordained.

I planned.

I know.

I will put the hook.

I will turn you back.

I will defend.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The “I” of human pride eventually meets the “I” of divine sovereignty.

LXIX. THE HOOK IN THE NOSE

Assyria thought:

It controlled others.

Spiritual Principle

The controller remains:

Controllable.

Before God.

LXX. ROOT DOWNWARD

Before:

Fruit.

Roots.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not resent hidden seasons when God is strengthening roots.

LXXI. FRUIT UPWARD

Rooting is not:

The final goal.

Fruit:

Follows.

Spiritual Principle

God preserves us not merely to survive, but to become fruitful again.

LXXII. THE ZEAL OF THE LORD

Restoration is not dependent entirely upon:

Human enthusiasm.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's commitment to His purpose is stronger than human weakness.

LXXIII. NOT ONE ARROW

God's promise becomes:

Specific.

Spiritual Principle

The Lord knows exactly how far the enemy will be permitted to go.

LXXIV. "I WILL DEFEND"

Jerusalem does not have to:

Make God defend it.

God announces:

His decision.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Divine protection rests in divine purpose.

LXXV. THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

One divine intervention changes:

The military equation.

Spiritual Principle

The balance of power is never accurately calculated if:
God is omitted.

LXXVI. THE MORNING AFTER

At night:

Assyria looks overwhelming.

In the morning:

The camp is devastated.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never assume tonight's crisis guarantees tomorrow morning's outcome.

LXXVII. SENNACHERIB GOES HOME

The one who said:

Jerusalem will fall.

Leaves:

Jerusalem standing.

Spiritual Principle

Boasting does not write the ending.

LXXVIII. THE GOD NISROCH COULD NOT SAVE

The irony is:

Complete.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A god that cannot protect its worshiper is not God.

LXXIX. ISAIAH 36 AND 37 TOGETHER

Isaiah 36

The enemy asks:

Can God save?

Isaiah 37

God answers:

Watch Me.

Key Truth

The question of faith in chapter 36 becomes the testimony of deliverance in chapter 37.

LXXX. EIGHT GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 37

- 1. Assyrian Threat → Hezekiah's Prayer**
- 2. Fearful Words → "Do Not Be Afraid"**
- 3. Human Kings → Creator of Heaven and Earth**
- 4. Dead Idols → Living God**
- 5. Assyria's Boasting → God's Sovereignty**
- 6. Siege → Deliverance**
- 7. Weak Remnant → Rooted and Fruitful Remnant**
- 8. Sennacherib's Confidence → Sennacherib's Death**

Key Truth

Everything Assyria boasted in is reversed by the living God.

LXXXI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What does Hezekiah do when he hears Rabshakeh's words?

He tears his clothes, puts on sackcloth, and goes to the house of the Lord.

Question 2

Who does Hezekiah seek?

The prophet Isaiah.

Question 3

How does Hezekiah describe the day?

As a day of distress, rebuke, and disgrace.

Question 4

What does he ask Isaiah to do?

Pray for the remnant.

Question 5

What is God's first word to Hezekiah?

"Do not be afraid."

Question 6

What does God promise concerning Sennacherib?

He will hear a report, return home, and eventually die by the sword.

Question 7

Does Assyria stop threatening immediately?

No.

Another threatening message is sent.

Question 8

What does Sennacherib accuse God of?

Deceiving Hezekiah.

Question 9

What does Hezekiah do with the letter?

He reads it, takes it to the Lord's house, and spreads it before God.

Question 10

How does Hezekiah begin his prayer?

By declaring God's sovereignty and creative power.

Question 11

Does Hezekiah deny Assyria's victories?

No.

He says:

"It is true."

Question 12

Why were the gods of the conquered nations destroyed?

Because they were not gods but human-made idols of wood and stone.

Question 13

Why does Hezekiah ask for deliverance?

So all kingdoms may know that the Lord alone is God.

Question 14

What words introduce God's answer?

"Because you have prayed to Me."

Question 15

What sin of Sennacherib does God particularly confront?

Pride and blasphemy.

Question 16

Who does Sennacherib think produced his victories?

Himself.

Question 17

What does God reveal?

That those events occurred within His sovereign plan.

Question 18

How thoroughly does God know Sennacherib?

He knows where he stays, when he comes and goes, and how he rages.

Question 19

What does God say He will put in Sennacherib's nose and mouth?

A hook and bit.

Question 20

What will happen to Judah's remnant?

It will take root below and bear fruit above.

Question 21

Who will accomplish the preservation of the remnant?

The zeal of the Lord Almighty.

Question 22

Will Assyria enter Jerusalem?

No.

Question 23

Why will God defend Jerusalem?

For His own sake and for the sake of His servant David.

Question 24

How many Assyrian soldiers are struck?

185,000.

Question 25

What does Sennacherib do afterward?

He withdraws and returns to Nineveh.

Question 26

How does Sennacherib eventually die?

His sons kill him while he is worshiping in the temple of Nisroch.

Question 27

What great irony closes the chapter?

Sennacherib mocked the living God for supposedly being unable to save Jerusalem, yet Sennacherib's own god could not save him.

LXXXII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 37 asks several searching questions.

Where Do I Go First When I Hear Bad News?

Toward:

Panic?

People?

Internet searches?

Arguments?

Or:

God?

What Threat Do I Need to Spread Before the Lord?

A letter?

Medical concern?

Financial pressure?

Family problem?

Accusation?

Fear?

Am I Afraid of Someone's Words?

Have I given their words more authority than:

God's Word?

Can I Admit:

“It is true”?

Can I face reality without:

Losing faith?

Do My Prayers Begin with:

The problem?

Or:

The greatness of God?

Do I pray only for relief?

Or also:

For God’s glory?

Do I interpret success as proof that I am:

Self-sufficient?

Have I taken credit for things God:

Allowed?

Enabled?

Provided?

Do I remember that God knows exactly where the enemy:

Comes.

Goes.

Stays?

Am I rooted deeply enough to bear fruit after the crisis?

Do I believe God can defend what He has determined to preserve?

LXXXIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Spread the Letter Before the Lord”

Hezekiah did not:

Burn it.

Hide it.

Obsess over it.

He:

Spread it before God.

Principle:

What you cannot control should become something you consciously place before the One who can.

LXXXIV. CRISIS AS A ROAD TO WORSHIP

Hezekiah hears:

Bad news.

Then goes:

To God.

Spiritual Principle

Trouble can either:

Drive us away.

Or:

Drive us deeper.

LXXXV. GOD HEARS WHAT THE ENEMY SAYS

Hezekiah says:

Listen to what Sennacherib said.

God already:

Heard.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

No threat against God's people occurs outside God's hearing.

LXXXVI. PRAYER AND REMNANT

Hezekiah's prayer concerns:

Those still left.

Spiritual Principle

God often does great work through:

What remains.

LXXXVII. THE FIRST ANSWER IS PEACE

Before the military miracle:

"Do not be afraid."

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes God calms the heart before He changes the circumstances.

LXXXVIII. THE SECOND THREAT

Faith is tested:

Again.

Spiritual Principle

Receiving a promise does not guarantee the enemy will immediately stop talking.

LXXXIX. SPREAD, THEN PRAY

Hezekiah does not merely:

Lay down the letter.

He speaks:

To God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Surrender is not silence toward God.

It is honest prayer before Him.

XC. THEOLOGY IN PRAYER

Hezekiah's prayer includes:

God's throne.

God's covenant identity.

God's uniqueness.

God's sovereignty.

God's creation.

Spiritual Principle

Good theology strengthens:

Good prayer.

XCI. FAITH DOES NOT NEED DENIAL

Hezekiah says:

Assyria really did:

Win.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Faith is not calling darkness light.

It is believing God remains Lord in the darkness.

XCII. GOD'S GLORY ABOVE PERSONAL COMFORT

Hezekiah's prayer reaches:

Mission.

Witness.

Spiritual Principle

Deliverance becomes greater when it magnifies:

God.

XCIII. THE GOD WHO HEARS PRAYER

God says:

“Because you have prayed.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Prayer is not wasted breath before an indifferent God.

XCIV. THE PRIDE OF SENNACHERIB

His entire worldview is:

Self-centered.

Spiritual Principle

Pride forgets:

Source.

Limits.

Accountability.

XCV. GOD’S SOVEREIGN PLAN

God says:

Long ago.

I planned.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

History never catches God:

Off guard.

XCVI. FULLY KNOWN BY GOD

Sennacherib knows:

Maps.

God knows:

Sennacherib.

Spiritual Principle

God knows not only:

Events.

But:

People.

Motives.

Movements.

XCVII. THE HOOK AND BIT

This imagery destroys:

Assyrian arrogance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The king who thought nations were animals to control discovers he also exists under a higher Master.

XCVIII. THE SIGN OF NORMAL LIFE

Sow.

Reap.

Plant.

Eat.

Spiritual Principle

Sometimes one of God's greatest gifts after crisis is:

Ordinary life restored.

XCIX. ROOTS AND FRUIT

The order remains:

Root.

Then:

Fruit.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Crisis survival should become post-crisis spiritual depth.

C. THE ZEAL THAT ACCOMPLISHES

God's zeal means:

He is not passive about His promise.

Spiritual Principle

God is more committed to His righteous purposes than we are capable of being.

CI. THE ENEMY'S LIMIT

Not one arrow.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The enemy may approach, but God still determines the boundary.

CII. FOR MY OWN SAKE

God's name is:

At stake.

Spiritual Principle

The final security of God's promise rests in:

God.

CIII. ONE NIGHT

Assyria took years to build:

Power.

One night changes:

Everything.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God can undo in one moment what human pride spent years constructing.

CIV. THE GREAT KING RETREATS

Isaiah 36 called:

Sennacherib.

The great king.

Isaiah 37 shows:

The greater King.

Spiritual Principle

Human greatness shrinks when God enters the comparison.

CV. DEATH IN THE IDOL TEMPLE

Sennacherib's final scene is:

Tragic.

Ironic.

The man who mocked:

God.

Dies beside:

An idol.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What we worship reveals where we expect salvation to come from.

CVI. SEVEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 37

1. Hezekiah Seeks the Lord

The threat becomes prayer.

2. God Says “Do Not Be Afraid”

Divine promise answers human fear.

3. Assyria Threatens Again

Faith is tested a second time.

4. Hezekiah Spreads the Letter Before God

Fear is converted into prayer.

5. God Exposes Assyria’s Pride

History is revealed as being under divine sovereignty.

6. God Promises a Rooted Remnant

Judah will survive and bear fruit again.

7. God Defeats Sennacherib

The army falls, the king retreats, and his own idol cannot save him.

Key Truth

Isaiah 37 moves from threatened faith to prayer, from prayer to divine answer, from Assyrian boasting to divine sovereignty, and from apparent defeat to miraculous deliverance.

CVII. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 37 is a chapter for people who have:

Received the letter.

You know what that means.

Something has arrived that you did not want:

A diagnosis.

A notice.

An accusation.

A financial crisis.

A family problem.

A threat.

Bad news.

A situation that says:

There is no way out.

Hezekiah received:

The letter.

He read it.

Then:

Went to God.

That is the pattern.

Read:

Reality.

Then:

Pray.

Do not pretend:

The letter does not exist.

Do not pretend:

Assyria is weak.

Hezekiah says:

“It is true.”

Assyria really had destroyed:

Nations.

But then Hezekiah remembers the difference.

Their gods were:

Wood.

Stone.

The work of:

Human hands.

But:

The Lord.

Made heaven and earth.

That is faith.

Not denying:

Facts.

But placing facts under:

A greater truth.

Then Hezekiah spreads the letter:

Before the Lord.

Perhaps that is exactly what some burdens need.

Stop spreading them:

Around your mind.

Again.

Again.

Again.

Spread them:

Before God.

Then listen to how Hezekiah prays.

He begins:

Not with Sennacherib.

But:

God.

“You alone are God.”

That is where prayer finds:

Stability.

The crisis may be:

Large.

But:

God is larger.

Then comes God's answer:

“Because you have prayed to Me.”

Prayer matters.

Not because prayer:

Manipulates God.

But because prayer places us in:

Dependence.

Faith.

Worship.

Then God exposes Sennacherib.

All those:

“I” statements.

I climbed.

I cut.

I reached.

I dug.

God answers:

I planned.

I ordained.

I know.

I will turn you back.

There is the difference between:

Human pride.

Divine sovereignty.

Then God tells Hezekiah:

The remnant will:

Take root below.

Bear fruit above.

Maybe that is where you are.

You survived:

The crisis.

Now God wants:

Roots.

Then:

Fruit.

And finally the impossible happens.

185,000.

Gone.

Sennacherib:

Withdraws.

Jerusalem:

Standing.

The great king:

Returns home.

And eventually dies in the temple of:

His powerless god.

The final irony is unforgettable.

The man who asked:

Can your God save you?

Should have asked:

Can my god save me?

So when the threatening letter arrives:

Do not let it become:

Your god.

Do not let it tell you:

What God can do.

Do not let the enemy define:

The future.

Take it.

Read it.

Spread it.

Pray.

Remember who God is.

Admit what is true.

Reject what is false.

Ask for God's glory.

Wait for His answer.

And remember:

The God who knew every movement of Sennacherib knows:

Exactly where you are.

Exactly what is coming.

Exactly what He will preserve.

Exactly when He will arise.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

When threatening words arrive:

Teach us to come:

To You.

When our hearts are distressed:

Do not let us run first toward:

Fear.

Panic.

Human strength.

Bring us into:

Your presence.

Father, give us courage to spread every burden:

Before You.

Every letter.

Every fear.

Every crisis.

Every impossible situation.

Help us pray like Hezekiah.

Remind us that:

You alone are God.

You rule all kingdoms.

You created:

Heaven.

Earth.

Everything.

Father, give us faith that can say:

“It is true.”

Without surrendering to:

Despair.

Help us face reality while remembering:

Reality is still under Your authority.

Thank You that You hear:

Prayer.

Thank You that no threat escapes:

Your attention.

Thank You that You know:

Where the enemy stays.

Where he comes.

Where he goes.

Father, expose pride.

Expose every false god.

Teach us not to boast in:

Strength.

Success.

Position.

Achievement.

Help us remember that every ability we possess remains under:

Your sovereignty.

Father, make us like the remnant.

Let us:

Take root below.

Bear fruit above.

After every crisis:

Deepen our roots.

Increase our fruit.

Thank You for defending Your name.

Thank You for keeping Your promises.

Thank You that no Assyria is:

Greater than You.

No army is:

Too numerous.

No situation:

Too complicated.

No threat:

Too loud.

No letter:

Too frightening.

For the God who delivered Jerusalem is still:

Sovereign.

Faithful.

Holy.

Powerful.

Teach us to trust You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers, read it, then went up to the house of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord.” — Isaiah 37:14

Central Truth

When Hezekiah received Assyria's threats, he carried them into God's presence and prayed; the Lord answered by revealing His sovereign control over history, exposing Sennacherib's arrogance, preserving Judah's remnant, defending Jerusalem for His own name's sake, destroying the Assyrian army, and proving that the living God alone—not human strength or powerless idols—rules the kingdoms of the earth.

Isaiah 37 in One Sentence

Isaiah records Hezekiah responding to Assyria's renewed threats by seeking the Lord, spreading Sennacherib's letter before God, and praying for deliverance and God's glory, after which the Lord exposes Assyria's pride, declares His sovereign control over its victories, promises that Judah's remnant will take root and bear fruit, miraculously destroys the Assyrian army, sends Sennacherib back to Nineveh, and ultimately proves the helplessness of the idol in whose temple the boastful king is killed.