

Isaiah Lesson 8

“Sovereign Creator, Compassionate Redeemer”

Isaiah 36-37

Day 1 – Read Isaiah 36:1-10

God’s Word is active and living. Ask the Lord to use it to transform you through the work of the Spirit.

In Isaiah 36-39, we turn from prophecies to historical narrative. This account is also recorded in 2 Kings 18-19 and 2 Chronicles 32. Before this narrative, in Isaiah 28-35, the people of Judah are facing the threat of the Assyrian Empire, the rising superpower, under the reign of King Sennacherib. The question posed to the people of God then and us now is “Who do you trust?” and “Where is your hope for deliverance?” The people’s instinct was to trust in Egypt. But God clearly stated, as we studied last week, that “Egypt’s help is worthless and empty.” (Isaiah 30:7)

This week, our text tells the “story of Hezekiah’s magnificent trust in God and God’s magnificent deliverance. For Isaiah’s readers – then and now- these chapters therefore serve as a case study or worked example of the kind of faith to which Isaiah has been calling us.” (Tim Chester, Isaiah For You, p.107)

- 1) Briefly summarize what is happening in Isaiah 36:1-3. (Note: “Rabshakeh” is the title of a high-ranking Assyrian military officer.)

- 2) What question is asked of Hezekiah in Isaiah 36:4?

- 3) Are there places in your life where you feel threatened, attacked, or in a battle? List them below.

Examine your heart. In those places, in what are you resting your trust?

- 4) In what ways does the Assyrian military officer try to place doubt and fear in the minds of God's people, and what elements of truth are in his words recorded in Isaiah 36:4-10?

Day 2- Read Isaiah 36:11-17

- 5) In Isaiah 36:11, what do King Hezekiah's representatives request of the Rabshakeh, and why?

6) How does the Rabshakeh respond to this request?

What three things does he cry out in a loud voice to God's people in Isaiah 36:14-16?

What does he promise in Isaiah 36:16-17?

How does this remind you of Genesis 3:1-5?

7) What 4 questions are asked in Isaiah 36:18-20 to cause doubt in the people's hearts?

1.

2.

3.

4.

8) Read the account of these questions in 2 Chronicles 32:11-15. What is the gist of these taunts?

9) How do the people respond in Isaiah 36:21, and what does this tell you about King Hezekiah's leadership?

What is the response of King Hezekiah and his messengers?

10) From whom and for whom does Isaiah request prayer?

11) What words of comfort does the LORD give Hezekiah through Isaiah? (Isaiah 37:6-7)

Day 4 – Read Isaiah 37:8-20

King Sennacherib continues his taunts in an attempt to cast doubts on Hezekiah's faith in the LORD's words. He does this in a letter sent by his messengers. Read about this in Isaiah 36:10-13 and 2 Chronicles 32:17-19.

12) How does Hezekiah respond in Isaiah 37:14-15, and how is this different than his earlier response in Isaiah 37:1-2?

13) What names and truths about God does Hezekiah begin and fill his prayer with in Isaiah 37:15-20?

14) What do you notice about how Hezekiah's view of God impacts his concerns and requests in this prayer?

15) How might Hezekiah's prayer shape your own prayers?

16) What are some things that you might need to spread out before the LORD for yourself or others?

Take some time to pray using Hezekiah's prayer as a model.

Day 5 – Read Isaiah 37:21-38

17) God answers Hezekiah's prayer by giving him words through Isaiah. Read Isaiah 37:21-35.
List the things God accuses Sennacherib of?

What truths about Himself does God reveal? Reread Isaiah 14:24-27.

What promise does he make in Isaiah 37:32?

18) What promise does He make concerning the king of Assyria in Isaiah 37:32-35?

How is His promise accomplished according to Isaiah 37:36-38?

19) What two reasons are given for God's deliverance in Isaiah 37:35?

20) How does God's deliverance in this narrative bolster your trust in Him for your circumstances?

21) **Sovereign Creator, Compassionate Redeemer.** How have you seen Him this week?

22) How might these living words from Isaiah 36-37 transform your life this week? Pray for the Spirit to help you.