

A Trek Through Isaiah 30 - 36:1 - 37:38

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Today: 36:1 - 37:38 Interim fulfillment

- Historical epilogue: defeat of Assyria at Jerusalem
- The greatest of Isaiah's interim fulfillments.
- He had portrayed Yahweh as the Lord of history
- Now he records events where that sovereignty was demonstrated.
- Climax of Isaiah's first Messiah portrait: the coming King

Chronology

- 728 Hezekiah becomes co-regent with Ahaz
- 722 Merodach-Baladan gains independence from Assyria and becomes king of Babylon
- 715 Hezekiah becomes king
- 705 Sargon dies. Sennacherib becomes king of Assyria. Uprisings across the empire. Hezekiah makes a treaty with Egypt.
- 704-703 Sennacherib quells the Babylonian uprising.
- 702-701 Sennacherib moves against the Palestinian states
 - Three phases (Phoenicia, Philistia, Judah).
 - After Phoenicia and Philistia are subdued, Sennacherib moves against Judah. Forty-six Judean cities are taken.
 - Egypt attempts to intervene and is defeated at El Tekeh, north of Lachish.
 - After Lachish falls, Hezekiah seeks terms and sends tribute to Sennacherib (2 Ki 18:13-16). Sennacherib takes the tribute, and then continues his campaign against Judah. This is the Assyrian treachery recorded in Is 21:2, 24:16, 33:1.
 - From Lachish, Sennacherib sends the Rabshakeh with an army to Jerusalem to seek its surrender. Hezekiah consults Isaiah and is reassured (Is 36:1 - 37:7).
 - Having taken Lachish, Sennacherib moves against Libnah (ten miles north of Lachish).
 - Sennacherib hears a rumor that Tirhakah of Cush (6th Pharaoh in the Ethiopian dynasty of Egypt) is coming to fight against him. (Is 37:8-9)
 - In order to strengthen his position against Egypt, Sennacherib sends a second message to Hezekiah seeking his surrender. Hezekiah brings the letter before Yahweh; Isaiah prophesies Assyria's defeat (Is 37:10-35).
 - The Assyrian army is destroyed, Sennacherib returns to Assyria (Is 37:36-38)
- 689 Manasseh becomes co-regent
- 687 Hezekiah dies
- 681 Sennacherib is assassinated by his sons

First Assyrian embassy 36:1 - 37:7

Background 36:1-3

Isaiah 36:1-3 (LSB)

1 Now it happened in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, that Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and seized them.

2 And the king of Assyria sent Rabshakeh from Lachish to Jerusalem to King Hezekiah with a heavy military force. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway of the fuller's field.

3 Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to him.

- V1 Chronology
 - Hezekiah had submitted to Assyria, sending tribute to buy peace. The king of Assyria had accepted the tribute, but immediately renewed his pressure on Hezekiah, conquering all of Judah's fortified cities and coming to the gates of Jerusalem. Now the strong world ruler was in direct confrontation with the weak Davidic king in the city of promise. In Is 14:25 Yahweh had promised to break Assyria, so His honor was on the line. Now was the time for Him to demonstrate His mastery of history.
- V2 Rabshakeh: Assyrian field commander
- V2 heavy military force. For a show of strength. Not to take the city.
- V2 the conduit of the upper pool.
 - The same place where Ahaz refused the way of faith (Is 7:3), choosing Assyria over Yahweh.
- Here are the consequences of Ahaz' choice. Hezekiah will make a different choice. We will see how, given true faith, God can redeem prior disbelief.

First Assyrian speech 36:4-10

Isaiah 36:4–10 (LSB)

4 Then Rabshakeh said to them, "Say now to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria, "What is this trust that you have?"

5 "I say, 'Your counsel and might for the war are only empty words.' Now in whom do you trust, that you have rebelled against me?"

6 "Behold, you trust in the staff of this crushed reed, even on Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.

7 "But if you say to me, 'We trust in Yahweh our God,' is it not He whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away and has said to Judah and to Jerusalem, 'You shall worship before this altar'?"

8 "So now, come make a bargain with my master the king of Assyria, and I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to give riders for them.

9 "How then can you turn away one official of the least of my master's servants and trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?"

10 "So now, have I come up without the approval of Yahweh against this land to make it a ruin? Yahweh said to me, 'Go up against this land and make it a ruin.'"

- V4-5 Challenge
 - Say now to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria'
 - No title for Hezekiah but exalting his king.
 - What is this trust that you have?
 - You. Singular. As if speaking directly to Hezekiah.
 - Empty words. Hezekiah's words have no weight.
 - Trust. 2x. The very issue that Isaiah spoke of.
- V6-10 Reasons
 - V6 Egypt is no help.
 - the staff of this crushed reed. Egypt had been defeated at El Tegeh near Lachish.
 - V7 You have offended Yahweh.
 - Playing to those who opposed Hezekiah's destruction of local shrines.
 - V8-9 You have no resources.
 - Noting that Judah has few horses.
 - Putting down the size of Judah's army; they must go to Egypt for help.
 - V10 Our conquest is authorized by Yahweh.
 - Yahweh said to me, 'Go up against this land and make it a ruin.'
 - Perhaps based on Isaiah's teaching in Is 10:5-6 Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury! Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Second Assyrian speech 36:11-20

Isaiah 36:11–20 (LSB)

11 Then Eliakim and Shebna and Joah said to Rabshakeh, "Speak now to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it; and do not speak with us in Judean in the hearing of the people who are on the wall."

12 But Rabshakeh said, "Has my master sent me only to your master and to you to speak these words, and not to the men who sit on the wall, doomed to eat their own dung and drink their own urine with you?"

13 Then Rabshakeh stood and cried with a loud voice in Judean and said, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria.

14 "Thus says the king, 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you;

15 and do not let Hezekiah make you trust in Yahweh, saying, "Yahweh will surely deliver us, this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria."

16 'Do not listen to Hezekiah,' for thus says the king of Assyria, 'Make your peace with me and come out to me, and eat each of his vine and each of his fig tree, and drink each of the waters of his own cistern,

17 until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards.

18 'Beware lest Hezekiah mislead you, saying, "Yahweh will deliver us." Has any one of the gods of the nations 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? And when have they delivered Samaria from my hand?

20 'Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their land from my hand, that Yahweh would deliver Jerusalem from my hand?'"

- V11-12 Bypassing the diplomats
 - The Judeans ask the Assyrian to speak in Aramaic, the language of diplomacy
 - The Rabshakeh refuses, speaks in Judean directly to the soldiers on the wall, attempting to turn them against Hezekiah. His words would be repeated in all the Judean families.
 - Dung, urine. Using the most graphic language.
- V13-20 Rabshakeh's appeal
 - V13-14 Exalting the king of Assyria, putting down Hezekiah
 - In opposition to the King that Isaiah had seen in his vision (Is 6)
 - Seeking to separate the people from their king.
 - V15 Warning against trusting in Yahweh.
 - The king of Assyria is claiming to be more faithful than Yahweh
 - The key question of Is 7-35: Where is true security?
 - v16 -17 Offering peace and prosperity. He cannot hide Assyria's policy of deportation but makes it look as good as possible.
 - v18 -20 Scorning Yahweh
 - Hamath, Arpad, Sepharvaim, Samaria. Cities previously conquered by Assyria.
 - Making Yahweh equal to other gods; scorning His power to save.
 - Here is Ps 14:1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no god."
 - If Yahweh is not Lord of history, then the Assyrian argument makes sense.
 - If He is, then the Assyrian argument is completely foolish.

Response of the Judeans 36:21-22

Isaiah 36:21–22 (LSB)

21But they were silent and answered him not a word, for the king's commandment was, "Do not answer him."

22Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn and told him the words of Rabshakeh.

- V21 Response of the people
 - they were silent
 - The envoys made no response.
 - The people remained loyal to Hezekiah.
- V22 Delivery of the message.
 - came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn.
 - Because of the blasphemy.

Hezekiah's response 37:1-5

Isaiah 37:1–5 (LSB)

1Now it happened that when King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and entered the house of Yahweh.

2Then he sent Eliakim, who was over the household with Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz.

3And they said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, 'This day is a day of distress, reproof, and rejection; for children have come to the point of breaking forth, but there is no strength to give birth.

4'Perhaps Yahweh your God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will reprove the words which Yahweh your God has heard.

Therefore, lift up a prayer for the remnant that is left.'"

5So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah.

- V1-2 What the king did
 - When King Hezekiah heard it. Immediately
 - he tore his clothes. In response to the blasphemy
 - covered himself with sackcloth. Humbling himself before Yahweh.
 - went into the house of Yahweh. Where Yahweh was to be found.
 - he sent Eliakim, who was over the household with Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests
 - He did not summon Elijah to come but went to him.
 - Top civil and religious leaders
 - covered with sackcloth,
 - Humbling themselves before Yahweh.
 - To Isaiah the prophet
 - Formally seeking a word from Yahweh.

- V3-5 Hezekiah's message to Isaiah
 - V3 Distress, reproof and rejection
 - Admission of guilt and shame
 - Distress: Adversity
 - Reproof: From Yahweh as justly deserved
 - Rejection: Abandoned by Yahweh
 - V3 No strength
 - Picture of a woman in labor but unable to give birth: pain and failure
 - All Judah's well-intentioned plans have failed. She is helpless.
 - Such an admission of helplessness is required to be saved.
 - V4 Invoking Yahweh's honor
 - Perhaps Yahweh your God. Ashamed to own Yahweh as their God.
 - Will hear. As a judge agreeing to hear a case.
 - Recognizing Assyria's mocking
 - Recognizing Yahweh as the living God. Concern for his honor.
 - V4 Prayer for the remnant that is left
 - Asking mercy for Yahweh's people who have not been killed or deported as a result of Judah's attempts to save themselves.

Isaiah's message 37:6-7

Isaiah 37:6-7 (LSB)

6And Isaiah said to them, "Thus you shall say to your master, 'Thus says Yahweh, "Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the young men of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.

7"Behold, I will put a spirit in him so that he will hear a report and return to his own land. And I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.'"

- Isaiah's humility: no revenge for his previous rejections.
- Three-part message
 - Encouragement
 - Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard
 - Same message as to Ahaz in Is 7
 - Assurance that Jerusalem would be delivered.
 - Recognition of the blasphemy
 - with which the young men of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.
 - Young men. Underlings. Deliberately putting them down.
 - Promise of deliverance
 - I will put a spirit in him
 - Spirit. Inclination.
 - Real sovereignty. As Pr 21:1 The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of Yahweh; He turns it wherever He pleases.
 - Promise
 - The king of Assyria will return to his own land and will be assassinated.
 - Implies the defeat of the Assyrian army.

Second Assyrian embassy 37:8-35

The divine rumor 37:8-9a

Isaiah 37:8-9 (LSB)

8Then Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that the king had set out from Lachish.

9Then he heard them say concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, "He has come out to fight against you."

- V8 found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah.
 - Perhaps the last free Judean city besides Jerusalem.
- V9 he heard them say concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, "He has come out to fight against you."
 - He heard. The king heard.
 - Tirhakah king of Ethiopia. Sixth Pharaoh of the Ethiopian dynasty.
 - Here is the divine rumor.

37:9b-13 Sennacherib's message

Isaiah 37:9–13 (LSB)

9...So he heard it and sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

10“Thus you shall say to Hezekiah king of Judah, ‘Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, “Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.”

11‘Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the lands, devoting them to destruction. So will you be delivered?

12‘Did the gods of those nations, which my fathers have brought to ruin, deliver them, even Gozan and Haran and Rezeph and the sons of Eden who were in Telassar?

13‘Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, and of Hena and Ivvah?’”

- Message comes verbally and in a letter
- V10 Attack on Hezekiah's faith
 - Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you
 - May reflect Hezekiah's answer to the first embassy. No mention of Egypt. Hezekiah seems to be trusting in Yahweh alone.
 - Asserting that Yahweh is a deceiver. He cannot/will not deliver Judah.
- V11 the Assyrian threat
 - devoting them to destruction
 - giving to Assyria's god.
 - A spiritual contest: can the city of Yahweh be taken and given to a pagan god?
- V12 Challenge to Yahweh
 - Did the gods of the nations deliver them?
 - Casting the conflict as a contest between the gods.
- V13 Personal threat against Hezekiah
 - Where is the king of Hamath...?
 - Hezekiah would die if Assyria conquered Jerusalem

Hezekiah seeks Yahweh's help 37:14-20

Isaiah 37:14–20 (LSB)

14 Then Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it, and he went up to the house of Yahweh and spread it out before Yahweh.

15 And Hezekiah prayed to Yahweh saying,

16 "O Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

17 "Incline Your ear, O Yahweh, and hear; open Your eyes, O Yahweh, and see; and listen to all the words of Sennacherib, who sent them to reproach the living God.

18 "Truly, O Yahweh, the kings of Assyria have laid waste to all the countries and their lands

19 and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. So they have destroyed them.

20 "But now, O Yahweh our God, save us from his hand that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are Yahweh, You alone."

- V14 What the king did
 - Hezekiah receives the letter and reads it.
 - He does not seem to give an answer to the messengers.
 - He takes it before Yahweh.
- V15-20 Hezekiah's prayer
- V16 Acknowledges Yahweh
 - Yahweh of hosts.
 - Sovereign over heaven and earth.
 - God of Israel.
 - God of His people
 - God of the covenants.
 - Davidic covenant: 2 Sam 7:16 ...your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.
 - God who had made Jerusalem His city
 - 1 Ki 11:36 ...Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen to put my name.
 - enthroned above the cherubim.
 - At each end of the mercy seat.
 - The God of mercy
 - you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth
 - The One sovereign over all the nations
 - you have made heaven and earth
 - The Creator
- V17 Calls upon Yahweh's honor.
 - Listen to all the words of Sennacherib, who sent them to reproach the living God.
 - Sennacherib. Correctly identifying the enemy.
 - reproach. Correctly characterizing his words.
 - Living God. Asserting that Yahweh is not dead.
 - No mention of Judah's worthiness.

- V18 Describes the situation
 - the kings of Assyria have laid waste to all the countries and their lands
 - The true situation: Judah is isolated.
- V19 Asserts the worthlessness of other gods.
 - For they were not gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone.
 - Seeing the idols for what they are
- V20 Appeals for deliverance
 - save us from his hand
 - Asking for mercy
 - Not deserved
 - that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you are Yahweh, You alone..
 - Not for Judah's deliverance but for Yahweh's glory.
- Contrast Ahaz
 - Trusted in Assyria
 - 2 Ki 16:7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. Come up and rescue me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who are attacking me."
 - Refused Isaiah's urging to trust in Yahweh
 - Is 7:12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put Yahweh to the test."

Yahweh's response 37:21-35

Isaiah speaks the word of Yahweh 37:21-22

Isaiah 37:21–22 (LSB)

21Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent word to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, 'Because you have prayed to Me about Sennacherib king of Assyria,

22this is the word that Yahweh has spoken against him: ...

- Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent word to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel
 - Then. Immediate answer.
 - Here is the office of prophet bringing the word of God.
 - Here is God hearing prayer. Note that Hezekiah did not send to Isaiah.
- Because you have prayed to Me about Sennacherib king of Assyria, this is the word that Yahweh has spoken against him
 - Hezekiah's faith opens two-way communication with God.
- Prayer at work
 - Eminently practical: What armaments, diplomacy, money could not do, prayer has done.
 - Planned from old (v26) to bring God's eternal counsels to pass through the prayers of His people.

Judgment on the king of Assyria 37:22b-29

Isaiah 37:22–29 (LSB)

22 This is the word that Yahweh has spoken against him: “She has despised you and mocked you, The virgin daughter of Zion; She has shaken her head behind you, The daughter of Jerusalem!

23 “Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? And against whom have you heightened your voice And haughtily lifted up your eyes? Against the Holy One of Israel!

24 “Through your servants you have reproached the Lord, And you have said, ‘With my many chariots I came up to the heights of the mountains, To the remotest parts of Lebanon; And I cut down its tall cedars and its choice cypresses. And I will go to its highest peak, its thickest forest.

25 ‘I dug wells and drank waters, And with the sole of my feet I dried up All the rivers of Egypt.’

26 “Have you not heard? Long ago I did it; From days of old I formed it. Now I have brought it to pass, That you should devastate fortified cities into ruinous heaps.

27 “So their inhabitants were short of power; They were dismayed and put to shame; They were as the plant of the field and as the green herb, As grass on the rooftops is scorched before it rises.

28 “But I know your sitting down And your going out and your coming in And your raging against Me.

29 “Because of your raging against Me And because your presumptuousness has come up to My ears, Therefore I will put My hook in your nose And My bridle in your lips, And I will turn you back by the way which you came.

- V22b Derision for Sennacherib
 - She has despised you and mocks you. Speaking to Sennacherib
 - She has shaken her head behind you — the virgin daughter of Zion
 - Picture of a young woman threatened with rape but escaping unscathed.
 - As Ps 2:4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.
- V23-25 His blasphemy and boasting
 - V23 blasphemy
 - heightened your voice And haughtily lifted up your eyes
 - Raising himself to be god
 - Against the Holy One of Israel!
 - Challenging Yahweh’s holiness
 - Challenging Yahweh’s commitment to His people
 - V24-25 boasting
 - And you have said, ‘With my many chariots I came up to the heights of the mountains, To the remotest parts of Lebanon; And I cut down its tall cedars and its choice cypresses. And I will go to its highest peak, its thickest forest.
 - Conquering the entire world
 - with the sole of my feet I dried up All the rivers of Egypt.
 - Picture of a farmer blocking off an irrigation canal
 - Stopping Egypt, the competing great power.
- As Satan in Is 14:13-14 You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven...I will make myself like the Most High.’

- V26-28 The truth
 - Long ago I did it; From days of old I formed it. Now I have brought it to pass, That you should devastate fortified cities into ruinous heaps.
 - Yahweh is the Lord of history. He ordained Assyria's conquests
 - I know your sitting down And your going out and your coming in
 - As Ps 139:1-5 O Yahweh, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up...You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.

- V29 The judgment
 - Two charges
 - your raging against Me. Seeking to be God.
 - Your presumptuousness. I am supreme
 - Sentence
 - I will put my hook in your nose. As Assyria did to their captives
 - my bridle in your lips. To be led as an animal
 - I will turn you back by the way which you came.
 - Here is true sovereignty. The king of Assyria was summoned to do Yahweh's work and will now be sent home.

- What Isaiah said in Is 10:13-15 For he (the king of Assyria) has said, "By the power of my hand and by my wisdom I did this, For I have understanding; And I removed the boundaries of the peoples And plundered their treasures, And like a mighty man I brought down their inhabitants, And my hand reached for the wealth of the peoples like a nest, And as one gathers abandoned eggs, I gathered all the earth; And there was not one that flapped its wing or opened its beak or chirped." Is the axe to boast itself over the one who chops with it? Is the saw to magnify itself over the one who wields it? That would be like a rod wielding those who lift it, Or like a staff lifting him who is not wood.
 - Assyria's king thought that his victories were due to himself.
 - But he was just a tool in Yahweh's hands.

Yahweh's care for His people 37:30-32

Isaiah 37:30–32 (LSB)

30“Then this shall be the sign for you: you will eat this year what grows of its own accord, in the second year what springs from the same, and in the third year sow, reap, plant vineyards, and eat their fruit.

31“And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

32“For out of Jerusalem will go forth a remnant and out of Mount Zion survivors. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will do this.”

- Speaking to Hezekiah and Judah
- V30 Provision from the land
 - you will eat this year what grows of its own accord, in the second year what springs from the same
 - Here is the land of milk and honey.
 - Even though devastated by Assyria, the land would of itself provide food for the Judeans for the next two years
 - in the third year sow, reap, plant vineyards, and eat their fruit
 - Agriculture is reestablished
- V31 Vitality of the nation restored
 - Picture of complete restoration.
 - Take root downward. Stability.
 - Bear fruit upward. Productivity
- V32a A remnant preserved
 - For out of Jerusalem will go forth a remnant and out of Mount Zion survivors
- V32b Guarantee
 - The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will do this
 - A miraculous deliverance. As the Son given Is 9:6.
 - Depends entirely on Yahweh.

Yahweh's action against His enemies 37:33-35

Isaiah 37:33–34 (LSB)

33“Therefore, thus says Yahweh concerning the king of Assyria, ‘He will not come to this city or shoot an arrow there; and he will not come before it with a shield or throw up a siege ramp against it.

34‘By the way that he came, by the same he will return, and he will not come to this city,’ declares Yahweh.

35‘Indeed I will defend this city to save it for My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.’”

- V33 Jerusalem will not be taken
 - He will not come to this city...
 - No assault
 - No siege
- V34 Sennacherib will return to Assyria
 - By the way that he came, by the same he will return.
- V35 Why
 - For My own sake: to vindicate His name
 - For My servant David’s sake: to fulfill the Davidic covenant

Historical fulfillment 37:36-38

Isaiah 37:36–38 (LSB)

36Then the angel of Yahweh went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And the men arose early in the morning, and behold, all of them were dead bodies.

37So Sennacherib king of Assyria set out and returned home and lived at Nineveh.

38Now it happened that as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son became king in his place.

- V36 Assyria defeated
 - 185,000 Assyrian soldiers killed in a single night
 - What no power on earth could accomplish
- V37 Sennacherib returns to Assyria
 - So Sennacherib king of Assyria set out and returned home and lived at Nineveh.
- V38 Sennacherib is assassinated.
 - His sons struck him down with the sword. 20y later in 681 BC.
- As Isaiah had said. Is 37:7 Behold, I will put a spirit in him so that he will hear a report and return to his own land. And I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.

Application: Who is the Lord of my history?

Is 7-39 is the book of the King. Question: where is true security? Answer: In Yahweh. He is the Lord of History and will accomplish His purpose

Three promises

- A King descended from David on his throne to rule eternally
- Zion established as head over the earth
- A transformed people (Jew and Gentile) and God dwelling with them.

Two examples of earthly Davidic kings

- Ahaz refused to trust in Yahweh: "I will not ask, and I will not test Yahweh" (Is 7:12). He turned to Assyria instead.
- Hezekiah first also trusted in politics and fortresses, but at the end turned to Yahweh and prayed "But now, O Yahweh our God, save us from his hand that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are Yahweh, You alone." (Is 37:20). Jerusalem was delivered.

Where is our true security found? Who is the Lord of our history to bring it about?

Two examples

- Jesus
 - We fix our eyes on Him who for the joy set before Him endured the cross. (Heb 12:2).
What was the joy set before Him? He knew only what was in the OT Scriptures.
 - Ex 20 Ten Commandments
 - Ex 34:6-7 Yahweh... will by no means leave the guilty unpunished...
 - Lev 17:11 blood required for atonement
 - Is 53:10-11 But Yahweh was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If You would place His soul as a guilt offering, He will see His seed, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of Yahweh will succeed in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.
 - The Servant crushed as a guilt offering
 - The Father satisfied
 - Many justified
 - The Servant sees His seed; His days are prolonged
 - The good pleasure of Yahweh succeeds in His hand
 - Is 9:7 The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will accomplish this.
 - What He did: kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously (1 Pet 2:23)
 - During His temptation, Satan tempted Him to deny God to meet His needs, to gain fame, to possess all the kingdoms of the world. Jesus said to him <Satan>, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" (Mt 4:10)
 - In the Garden of Gethsemane, knowing what was coming, He said, "...not as I will, but as You will" (Mt 26:39)
 - On the cross, as He was dying, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit." (Lk 23:46)
 - What He gained
 - Highly exalted. Name above every name. (Ph 2:9)
- Demas
 - Fellow worker with Paul (Phile 24)
 - Deserted Paul because he loved this present age. (2 Tim 4:10)
 - Where did he put his trust?
 - What did he gain?
 - Lost rewards.
 - Maybe lost salvation.

We have many precious and magnificent promises from God (2 Pet 1:3)

- Whoever believes in Jesus will not perish but have eternal life. (Jn 3:16)
- We have an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for us who are protected by the power of God. (1 Pet 1:4-5)
- All things work together for our good (Ro 8:28). Trials will come (Jn 16:33) but we can rejoice in them since they are to perfect us (Ja 1:4). Our heavenly Father disciplines us for our benefit so that we may share His holiness (Heb 12:10)
- He who began a good work in us will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. (Ph 1:7)

Who will we be like, Jesus or Demas?

How can we be like Jesus? Grow in knowledge. (2 Pet 3:18)

Note

- Jesus was perfect. We will fail. What do we do?
 - Don't lose heart.
 - There is now no condemnation. (Ro 8:1)
 - Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. (Ro 8:38-39)
 - Confess, be forgiven and cleansed (1 Jn 1:9-10)

References

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