

Isaiah

“The Evangelical Prophet”

- I. God’s *Denunciation* of **Judah** (1:1-12:6)
- II. God’s *Denunciations* against **other Nations** (13:1-23:18)
- III. Isaiah’s *Description* of **End Time Events** (24:1-27:13)
- IV. Isaiah’s *Dire Warnings* to Ephraim and **Judah** (28:1-35:10)

V. Isaiah’s *Description* of the **Fourteenth Year of King Hezekiah** (36:1-39:8)

A. The *Taunts* from **Sennacherub, the King of Assyria** (36:1-22)

1. **Who Invaded and Conquered** the **Fortified Cities** of **Judah** (36:1)

36 Now in the *fourteenth year* of **King Hezekiah**, **Sennacherib** king of **Assyria** came up **against** all the **fortified cities** of **Judah** and **seized them**.

2. **Who Initiated a Meeting** with a **Delegation** from **Hezekiah** (36:2-3)

² And the **king of Assyria** sent **Rabshakeh** from **Lachish** to **Jerusalem** to **King Hezekiah** with a **large army**. 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.

3. **Who Insulted King Hezekiah, and the LORD** *through* his **Envoy Rabshakeh** (36:4-22)

a. **Accusing Hezekiah** of having a **false confidence** in his readiness for war (36:4-5)

⁴ Then **Rabshakeh** said to them, “Say now to **Hezekiah**, ‘Thus says the **great king, the king of Assyria**, “What is this **confidence** that you have?”

⁵ I say, ‘Your **counsel** and **strength** for the **war** are only **empty words**.’ Now on **whom** do you **rely**, that you have **rebelled against me**?”

b. **Ridiculing them** for **aligning themselves** with **Egypt** (36:6)

⁶ Behold, you **rely** on 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 *rely* on **him**.

c. *Mocking him* for **taking down** the “**high places**” and “**altars**” of the **God in whom they trust** (36:7)

⁷ But if you say to me, ‘**We trust** in the **LORD 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*’?

d. *Mockingly offering* them a “**bargain**” of **2,000 horses** for their “**riders**”
(36:8-9)

⁸ Now therefore, 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 **set riders** on them.

⁹ How then can you **repulse one official** of the **least** of my **master’s servants**
and **rely** on **Egypt** for **chariots** and for **horsemen**?

e. *Declaring boldly* that **the LORD** had “**approved**” the **destruction** of **Judah**
and **Jerusalem** (36:10)

¹⁰ Have I now **come up without** the **LORD’s approval** *against* this land
to **destroy** it? **The LORD said to me**,
‘**Go up against** this land and **destroy it**.’”

f. *Disregarding* an **official request** to **speak only** in **Aramaic** (36:11-12)

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?”

g. *Accusing King Hezekiah* of **deceit**, because he **promised** that **the LORD**
would deliver them from **Assyria** (36:13-15)

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 nor let **Hezekiah** make you **trust in the LORD**, saying,
“**The LORD** will *surely deliver us*,
this **city** will **not** be **given** into the **hand** of the **king of Assyria**.”

h. **Promising** the **people** peace and prosperity if they *shun* **Hezekiah**, and “**make peace**” with the **Assyrian king** (36:16-17)

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**.

I. **Warning them** that none of the **gods** of the nations they **conquered** were **able** to **save them** (36:18-20)

¹⁸ Beware that **Hezekiah** does **not mislead** you, saying,
“**The LORD** 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 **the LORD** would deliver Jerusalem from **my hand**?”

4. **Whose Insolence** was met **only** with silence from **Hezekiah’s**
Delegation (36:21-22)

²¹ But **they** were silent and answered him **not a word**;
for the **king’s commandment** was, “Do not answer him.”

²² Then **Eliakim** the son of **Hilkiah**, 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**.

Personal Application

Do not let the “**Rabshekahs**” of this **World**
turn you away from your Faith in the **Living God**

1. **Do not** let any “**Rabshekah**” cause you to **lose** confidence in the **sovereign power**
of **God**. (36:4-5)

“Let the **name of God** be **blessed forever and ever**,
For wisdom and power *belong to Him*.

“It is He who **changes** the **times** and the **epochs**;
He **removes kings** and **establishes kings**;

He gives wisdom to wise men
and knowledge to men of understanding. (Daniel 2:20-21)

2. *Do not* let anyone shake your faith in the words and promises of God.

Know therefore that the LORD your God, *He is God*, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; (Deuteronomy 7:9)

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope *without wavering*, for He who promised is faithful; (Hebrews 10:23)

3. *Do not* let “mockers” weaken your faith in the promise of His coming.

Know this first of all, that in the *last days* mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, “*Where* is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, *all continues* just as it was from the beginning of creation...”

The Lord is *not slow* about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. (II Peter 3:3-4, 9)

4. *Do not* let anyone *persuade* you that you are not unconditionally loved by God.

For I am convinced that *neither death*, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Messiah Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

5. *Do not* let any “Rabshekah” deceive you saying that God has forsaken you.

Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.” (Deuteronomy 31:6, Hebrews 13:5)

6. *Do not* let anyone “bribe or bargain” you *away* from trusting in God, and doing His will (36:8, 16-17)

7. *Do not* let anyone’s threatening words or actions cause you to fear, for “the LORD is my light and my salvation; *whom* shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life: *whom* shall I dread?” (Psalm 27:1-3)

8. As we read tonight, it may be best not to answer those who make foolish boasts against us and our God (36:21-22):

Do not speak in the hearing of a fool,
For he will despise the wisdom of your words. (Proverbs 23:9)