### Isaiah

## Chapter 37

1Well, when King HezekiAh heard this, he tore off his clothes and put on sackcloth, then he went to the Temple of Jehovah. 2He also sent EliAkim his house manager, ShebNa the scribe, and all the elders among the priests (that were each wearing sackcloth) to the Prophet IsaiAh (son of Amoz).  
  
3For he told them to say:  
  
 ‘These are the words of HezekiAh:  
  
 ‘This is a day of affliction, scorning, scolding, and rage… It’s a day of all the pain of a woman who doesn’t have enough strength to give birth!  
  
 4‘So, may Jehovah your God hear the words of RabShakeh who was sent by his lord the king of Assyria to berate the living God… May Jehovah your God hear the words that he said to berate Him! Please go to Jehovah your God to beg before Him concerning those of us that are still left here!’  
  
5So the servants of King HezekiAh went to IsaiAh, and this is what IsaiAh said to them:  
  
 6‘Tell your lord that Jehovah says you shouldn’t be afraid of the words that you heard the ambassador of the king of Assyria say to berate Him!  
  
 7‘For {look!}, He’s going to send a spirit against him, and when he hears its message, he’ll just go back to his own place, where he will fall by the sword within his own land!’  
  
  
8Well at the time, RabShakeh had returned to the king of Assyria, who was busy attacking LibNah. He was no longer at LachIsh, 9because he was told that TirHakah, the king of Ethiopia, was coming to fight him.  
  
Then [King SenNaCherib] sent his people back to HezekiAh with a message that said this:  
  
 10‘Tell HezekiAh the king of Judah not to allow his God upon whom he’s relying to deceive him when He says there’s no way that JeruSalem will be given into the hands of the king of the Assyrians!  
  
 11‘{Look!} Haven’t you heard what the kings of Assyria have done throughout the whole earth and of the destruction that they’ve brought? Really, who is going to save you now?  
  
 12‘Have the gods of any of the nations that my father destroyed been able to rescue them… Those of Gozan, Haran, and Rezeph in the region of Tel AsSar? 13Where are the kings of HaMath, and where is ArPhad? Where are the cities of SepharVaim, Henah, and Hivah?’  
  
14Well, after HezekiAh took the proclamation from [SenNaCherib’s] messengers and read it, he went up to the Temple of Jehovah again and unrolled [the scroll] before the Lord, 15and he prayed to Jehovah, saying:  
  
 16‘O Jehovah of Armies, God of IsraEl… The One who rests upon cherubs,  
  
 ‘You’re the only God over all the kingdoms of the habitation of mankind, for You’re the One who made the lands and the skies.  
  
 17‘So, O Jehovah,  
  
 ‘Lean Your ear towards me and please listen O Lord! O Jehovah, open Your eyes! Look down, O Jehovah, then hear and understand all the words that SenNaCherib sent to berate the living God!  
  
 18‘It’s a fact, O Jehovah, that the kings of the Assyrians have conquered the entire habitation of mankind everywhere. 19And there amidst all the flames, they’ve erected their idols to replace those that were never gods but are just the works of men’s hands – things made of wood and stone – after they did all their destroying.  
  
 20‘But now, O Jehovah our God,  
  
 ‘Please rescue us from his hands, so that all the kingdoms of the earth will know that You are the only God!’  
  
  
21Well thereafter, [God sent] IsaiAh (son of Amoz) to HezekiAh, and he told HezekiAh that Jehovah the God of IsraEl said that He’d heard everything that he’d prayed concerning King SenNaCherib of Assyria, and that this was Jehovah’s reply to [King SenNaCherib]:  
  
 22‘You’ve sneered at the virgin daughter of Zion,  
 And you’ve treated her with disrespect.  
 So, [the virgin] daughter of JeruSalem  
 Has nodded her head against you!  
  
 23‘Do you know whom you’ve provoked and berated,  
 Or against whom you’ve raised your voice  
 And against whom you’ve lifted your eyes to the heights?  
 It’s against the Holy One of IsraEl!  
  
 24‘Through messengers, you’ve berated Jehovah  
 When you said:  
  
 I’ll climb over their mountains  
 With huge numbers of chariots behind me  
 That will stretch to Lebanon’s borders.  
 Then, on their heights, I’ll cut down their cedars  
 And the beauty of their cypress trees.  
 Then I’ll climb to the tops of their forests,  
 25And I will dam up their [rivers].  
  
 26‘Haven’t you heard of the things I can do,  
 And of the things that I ordered to be done long ago?  
 For I’ve shown how I can destroy  
 Nations and fortified cities,  
 As well as those in their towns and their forts.  
 27I’ve weakened and dried up their hands,  
 Turning them into dry hay…  
 Like the grass that grows on their roofs.  
  
 28‘I know that you have been resting  
 From all of your comings and goings.  
 29And now, all your hatred and rage  
 Is being directed towards Me!  
 So I’ll put a rein ‘round your nose,  
 And a bit in your lips,  
 Then I’ll send you back by the way that you came.  
  
 30‘This is the sign that I’ll do it:  
 This year, you’ll eat what you’ve planted,  
 Then in the 2nd, you’ll eat what is left.  
 And in the 3rd, you’ll plant and you’ll reap…  
 Once more you’ll plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
  
 31‘The same will also be true of all those  
 Who still remain in Judea…  
 They will sprout roots from below,  
 And from above, they’ll reap grain.  
  
 32‘Then, those who are left in JeruSalem  
 (Those who remain on Mount Zion)  
 Will thereafter be brought to the fore  
 Through the zeal of Jehovah of Armies.’  
  
33Then, concerning the king of Assyria, Jehovah said this:  
  
 ‘There’s no way that he’ll enter this city…  
 [His men] won’t shoot arrows against it,  
 Nor will any even lift up their shields  
 Or build a siege mound around it.  
 34They’ll just return by the way that they came,  
 And they will not enter this city!’  
  
Jehovah said:  
  
 35‘I will shield this city and save it  
 Because of Myself and My servant David.’  
  
36Well thereafter, a messenger came from Jehovah and he destroyed the camp of the Assyrians… 185,000 of them! So when the [people] awoke the next morning, all they found was just dead bodies!  
  
37Then King SenNaCherib of the Assyrians [packed up] and left for Nineveh, where he went to live. 38And it was while he was there bowing to the ground in the temple of his god Nisroch, that AdramMelech and ShaRezer (his sons) struck him with swords and fled to Armenia. So, another son, EsarHaddon, started reigning in his place.