

The Book of Isaiah

Trusting God More #17

Some of the outlines are taken from Melissa Spoelstra's book, *Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting More*.

Review of the previous Lesson: Chapter 35 (The Judgement of God and the Lord's vengeance).

Opening Discussion: When faced with a crisis who do you lean on and who do you listen to? Where do you find strength?

Chapters 36-39 form a second division of Isaiah. It is important for you to understand the shift from prophetic language (in that day) which is what we have studied thus far. This section of Isaiah moves from prophecy to history. The language is different. Most importantly these chapters represent the transfer of power from Assyria to Babylon.

- This section is a record of son of David who was beset by enemies, delivered from death, was raised from the dead and is coming again. This, of course, is referring to Jesus Christ.
- The events in this historical section are all centered around events in Scripture: 2 Kings 18-19, 2 Chronicles 29-30, and here is Isaiah. Read these Scriptures and observe the similarities.

There are three significant miracles that take place in these three chapters.

1. One angel slays 185,000 Assyrians (chapter 37:36-38).
2. The sun retreats ten degrees on the sun dial of Ahaz (38:7-8)
3. God heals Hezekiah and extends his life fifteen years (38:1-5)

The main discussions in this section are the two letters received by Hezekiah. One was from Assyria and the other from Babylon. We will discuss the two letters and how Hezekiah responded to the two letters.

Please note the difference. **First Letter** (from Assyria)

He took the concerns of the first letter to God in prayer and God delivered the people.

Second Letter (from Babylon) This second letter was flattering to Hezekiah. He did not take the concern to God, nor did he pray about the content of the letter.

Discussion: What red light did you see or hear? How many times have we played the role of Hezekiah? Did he start to feel too complacent?

Read 36:1-4. The adversary uses Rabshakeh. He declines from putting his faith in God. In fact, in 14-15, he urges the people not to trust in God. Therefore, this chapter closes on a dark and doleful note.

Chapter 37

Read verses 1-4 as we hear the reaction to the messenger's report.

Read closely the words of encouragement found in verses 5-7 from the Lord through Isaiah. Isn't it interesting to read or hear the *on-time* words of encouragement from the Lord? Read Rabshakeh's withdrawal from Jerusalem and his letter to Hezekiah (8-13).

Notice the action Hezekiah takes after he receives the letter in verses 14-20. He immediately takes the matter to the Lord in prayer. In the moment of crisis, he turns to God.

- Hezekiah acknowledged God. Hezekiah approached God upon the mercy seat. He acknowledged God as the Creator of all.
- He showed God the letter and makes God aware the letter is directly against Him. He appeals to God to save Judah for his name's sake in verse 20.

In verse 21, God answers. In chapter 38, King Hezekiah has ruled over Judah for twenty-nine years. He became ill prior to his death.

Isaiah delivers the sentence to death. The instructions Isaiah received from the Lord was that Isaiah should put his house in order. Read 38:1-3. God heard his prayer in verses 4-5. What was the result of his prayer and the Lord's response? God added 15 years to his life.

Discuss how Hezekiah ***played the fool*** after his recovery.

In what ways have we played the fool after having recovered or gotten back on our feet?

Hezekiah's story continues in chapter 39. Let's see what we learn from him.