

A BOAST TURNED TO TOAST. 2 CHN. 32. 3/24/24. #35.

After this Sennacherib king of Assyria sent his servants to Jerusalem (but he and all the forces with him *laid siege* against Lachish), to Hezekiah king of Judah, and to all Judah who were in Jerusalem, saying, ¹⁰“Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria: ‘In what do you trust, that you remain under siege in Jerusalem? ¹¹Does not Hezekiah persuade you to give yourselves over to die by famine and by thirst, saying, “The LORD our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria”? ¹²Has not the same Hezekiah taken away His high places and His altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, “You shall worship before one altar and burn incense on it”? ¹³Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of other lands? Were the gods of the nations of those lands in any way able to deliver their lands out of my hand? ¹⁴Who was there among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed that could deliver his people from my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you from my hand? ¹⁵Now therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or persuade you like this, and do not believe him; for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people from my hand or the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you from my hand?”

1. Hezekiah's gamble

- a. After the death of King Sargon of Assyria, Hez. rebelled
 - a1. Judah had been paying tribute \$ to Assyria
 - a2. Sennacherib had to fight Aramea & Babylon
 - a3. Hez. refused to send the annual tribute to Assyria
- b. 2 Kn. 18 after Assyria defeated their enemies, Sen. took Israel in 722 BC & invaded Philistia & Judah in 715 BC
- c. Hez. wrote a letter of repentance to Sen. & sent tribute of 11 tons of silver & 1 ton of gold by stripping both his palace & the temple of these metals
 - a1. Sen. left Jerusalem for a time, but to returned
 - a2. He wanted Judah & Jerusalem
- d. Sen. sent his Rabshakel (*field commander*) to Jer.
- e. Rabshakel mocked Hez. & Judah:
 - a1. No kingdom had been able to resist Assyria
 - a2. None of the gods of the lands stopped them
 - a3. Jer. could not even produce 2,000 horsemen
 - a4. Hez. had destroyed all the high places of God & commanded worship only in Jerusalem
 - a5. Egypt was a broken reed & could not help them
 - a6. Jer. could not resist the least Assyrian captain
 - a7. If they surrendered, they would be taken away to a pleasant land of plenty
 - a8. If they resist, Assyria would lay siege to the city & they would end up eating their own waste
- f. The psychology of the commander's speech was effective

² KINGS 18:14 And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. ¹⁵Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: “O LORD God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and

earth. ¹⁶Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God... ¹⁷Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard.’ ¹⁸This is the word which the LORD has spoken concerning him: ‘The virgin, the daughter of Zion, has despised you, laughed you to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem has shaken her head behind your back! ¹⁹Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice, and lifted up your eyes on high? Against the Holy One of Israel. ²⁰By your messengers you have reproached the Lord, and said: “By the multitude of my chariots I have come up to the height of the mountains, to the limits of Lebanon; I will cut down its tall cedars and its choice cypress trees; I will enter the extremity of its borders, to its fruitful forest. ²¹I have dug and drunk strange water, and with the soles of my feet I have dried up all the brooks of defense.” ²²Did you not hear long ago how I made it, from ancient times that I formed it? Now I have brought it to pass, that you should be for crushing fortified cities into heaps of ruins. ²³Therefore their inhabitants had little power; they were dismayed and confounded; they were as the grass of the field and the green herb, As the grass on the housetops and grain blighted before it is grown. ²⁴But I know your dwelling place, your going out and your coming in, and your rage against Me. ²⁵Because your rage against Me and your tumult have 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.

2. The God of Israel & Judah responds

- a. Hez. took Rab.'s letter to the Lord
 - a1. The Living God is being mocked
 - a2. Hez. appeals for help from God
- b. Isaiah sends an answer back to Hez.
 - a1. Since Hez. trusted God & appealed to Him, God would defeat his enemies
 - a2. Sen. would not set foot in Jerusalem
- c. God proclaimed that Sen. will fall by his own offspring
 - a1. Sen. had defeated many enemies & eaten there
 - a2. God would turn him back in rage
 - a3. God is the only true God, maker of all things
 - a4. God will honor His cov. with His servant, David

3. Sennacherib meets his end

³⁶And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. ³⁷So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh. ³⁸Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the temple of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

- a. God sent the Angel of the Lord to kill 185,000 troops
 - a1. God fought for Hez. & Jerusalem
 - a2. Sen. went home in disgrace & was killed by 2 of his sons in the temple of his god
- b. God will defend His name & His faithful servants
- c. God places us where we run out of our own resources