

# Isaiah

## Part Six

**Hezekiah – Trusting God  
or the Nations?**

**(chapters 36 - 39)**

# **Rabshakeh's Threat and God's Judgment – 36:1 – 37:38**

- **A book about Hezekiah**
- **Switches from poetry to narrative**

# Background to 36 - 37

Theme of Chapters 7 - 39

**You can depend on God.**

**He is trustworthy.**

# Background to 36 - 37

**The Nations Cannot be Trusted. God can!**

# Background to 36 - 37

The nations cannot be trusted **13-23**

Tale of Two Cities **24-27**

Woes for Trusting the Nations **28-33**

Garden or Desert? **34-35**

**The Nations Cannot be Trusted. God can!**

# Background to 36 - 37

Ahaz's  
Decision

The nations cannot be trusted **13-23**

Tale of Two Cities **24-27**

Woes for Trusting the Nations **28-33**

Garden or Desert? **34-35**

Hezekiah's  
Decision

The Nations Cannot be Trusted. God can!

# Background to 36 -- 37

- **EVENT 3 – Hezekiah and Assyria – 36-37**
- **EVENT 1 – Hezekiah's Illness – 38**
- **EVENT 2 – Merodach-Baladan's Envoys -- 39**

# Two World-Views

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## Assyria's World-View

- Rabshakeh's Speech -- 36:4-10
- Rabshakeh's Speech – 36: 13-20
- Sennacherib's Letter – 37:10-13

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## Assyria's World-View

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## World-View of God's People

- Hezekiah's Prayer – 37:14-20
- God's Speech – 36:6-7
- God's Speech – 37:22-35

# Many Sources Available

- **2 Kings 18-19**
- **2 Chronicles 32**
- **Taylor Prism and Sennacherib Prism**
- **Kawa Tela IV (Egyptian)**
- **Babylonian Documents**
- **Josephus *Antiquities* 10**

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- **The Chain of Events**
  - **Sargon died (705) setting off round of revolts**
  - **Sennacherib becomes king of Assyria**
  - **Merodach-Baladan of Babylon seeks Hezekiah's support**
  - **Isaiah's counsel – 30:15**
  - **Echron revolted, sent Padi captive to Hezekiah**

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  - Sargon died (705) setting off round of revolts
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  - Merodach-Baladan of Babylon seeks Hezekiah's support
  - Isaiah's counsel – 30:15
  - Ekron revolted, sent Padi captive to Hezekiah
  - Hezekiah's response
    - Withheld tribute
    - Kept Padi, Assyrian ruler of Ekron as prisoner
    - Sent envoys to Egypt for support

# Background to 36 - 37

- **The Chain of Events, cont'd**
  - **Sennacherib**
    - **Defeats Merodach-Baladan (703)**
    - **Besieges Tyre, defeats coastal cities**
    - **Defeated an Egyptian force outside Ekron**
    - **Destroyed 46 walled cities in Judah – see Is 1:7-9**

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- **Hezekiah**

- Returned Padi, pays an exorbitant tribute, loses land
    - Prepares for siege should Assyria change its mind
    - Built an aqueduct



# Background to 36 - 37

- **Chain of Events, cont'd**
  - Sennacherib decides to attack Judah – see 33:1
  - Rabshakeh and a large army go to Jerusalem
  - They leave to help Sennacherib fight Egypt
  - Sennacherib sends a letter to Hezekiah – 37:8-14
  - Sennacherib defeats Egypt
  - God defeats the Assyrian army – 37:36-37
  - Sennacherib returns home; Judah is saved

# Rabshakeh's Threat and God's Judgment – 36:1 – 37:38

- **36:1-3 The Occasion**
  - Dated 701 BC based on Sennacherib's annals
  - Chapters 38-39 probably happened before 36-37
  - Hezekiah has already paid the tribute to Assyria
  - Rabshakeh demands Jerusalem's surrender
  - Eliakim is Hezekiah's representative
  - Shebna is the scribe

# Rabshakeh's Threat and God's Judgment – 36:1 – 37:38

- **Rabshakeh's Presentation**

1. **36:4-6** Egypt can't help you
2. **36:7** Hezekiah has turned God against you
3. **36:8-9** Judah's army is laughable
4. **36:10** God sent me
5. **36:11-15** Threat of siege
6. **36:16-17** Bribery and promises
7. **36:18-20** Assyria is unbeatable

# Rabshakeh's Threat and God's Judgment – 36:1 – 37:38

- **36:21-37:7 Judah's Response**
  - **36:21-22 People's response: silence & torn clothes**
  - **37:1-4 Hezekiah's response: prayer**
  - **37:5-7 Isaiah's response: don't be afraid**

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- **36:8-13 Sennacherib's Letter**
  - 37:8-9a Rabshakeh returns to Sennacherib
  - 37:9b-13 Contents of Sennacherib's letter
  - 37:14-20 Hezekiah's prayer to God

# **Rabshakeh's Threat and God's Judgment – 36:1 – 37:38**

- **Hezekiah's Prayer – 37:14-20**
  - Hezekiah takes the problem to God – 37:14-15
  - He addresses God – 37:16
  - His request – 37:17-20
    - Assyria's thrown gods of wood and stone into the fire
    - Deliver us that they may know you alone are God

# Rabshakeh's Threat and God's Judgment – 36:1 – 37:38

- **37:21-35 God's Response**
  - 37:21-25 God's message to Hezekiah
  - 37:26-29 God's message to Sennacherib
  - 37:30-32 God's sign to Hezekiah
  - 37:33-35 God's promise to Hezekiah

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- **37:36-38 God Delivers Judah**
  - God kills 185,000 Assyrians



# The Sickness & The Song – 38:1-22

- This event occurred before chapters 36-37

# The Sickness & The Song – 38:1-22

- This event occurred before chapters 36-37
- Stark contrast between the two kings
  - Sennacherib goes to the temple of his god and loses his life
  - Hezekiah goes to the temple of God and received additional life

# The Sickness & The Song – 38:1-22

- **Hezekiah's Illness & Prayer – 38:1-3**
  - Many consider it self-focused
  - Not so different, though, from Neh 5:19; 13:14, 22, 31; Ps 26:1-3; Jer 5:15. Also consider Heb 6:10.
- **God's Response – 38:4-8**

# The Sickness & The Song – 38:1-22

- **Hezekiah's Song of Forgiveness – 38:9-20**
  - Introduction 38:9
  - Lament over approaching death – 38:10-13
  - Request to God – 38:14
  - Benefit and blessing – 38:15-17a
  - Thanksgiving for salvation – 38:17b-20
- **The Healing – 38: 21-22**

# Hezekiah's Mistake – 39:1-8

- **Showing Babylon Everything – 39:1-4**
- **The Consequences – 39:5-8**

# Summary of 38 - 39

- **The Question of Trust**
  - Ahaz
  - Hezekiah

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- **The Question of Trust**
  - Ahaz
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- **The Question of Servanthood**
  - Serve the one who can be trusted
  - Hezekiah was a good king -- 2 Kg 18:5; 2 Chr 29:2

# Summary of 38 - 39

- **The Question of Trust**
  - Ahaz
  - Hezekiah
- **The Question of Servanthood**
  - Serve the one who can be trusted
  - Hezekiah was a good king -- 2 Kg 18:5; 2 Chr 29:2
  - Yet Hezekiah still had his flaws
- **There was an ideal king yet to come – transition to the second half of Isaiah**



# Assignment

**Read Isaiah 40-42**