

## A Human intervention:

### ❖ Preparing for conflict. Isaiah 36:1.

- Sennacherib attacked Palestine in 701 BC. He destroyed the kingdom of Judah and conquered Lachish, a city near Jerusalem.
- Hezekiah prepared the city for war. He strengthened the walls, blocked off the springs, and dug a tunnel to bring water to Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 32:1-6; 2 Kings 20:20).
- He had done everything humanly possible, then he entrusted the battle to the only One who could help him (2 Chronicles 32:7-8). He was a great example for us.

### ❖ The Assyrians advance. Isaiah 36:2-20.

- While besieging Lachish, Sennacherib sent his Rabshakeh to Jerusalem. His goal was to conquer the city by intimidating the people and talking them into rebelling against Hezekiah and handing the city over.
  - (1) Isaiah 36:6. You cannot trust Egypt
  - (2) Isaiah 36:7. You cannot trust God, because Hezekiah offended Him by tearing down His places of worship
  - (3) Isaiah 36:8. You don't even have horsemen ready for war
  - (4) Isaiah 36:10. God is on Assyria's side
  - (5) Isaiah 36:12. You will starve because of the long siege
- The Rabshakeh used a mix of truths, half-truths, and lies. But he couldn't convince the people. They trusted God's power and remained faithful to their king.

## B Divine intervention:

### ❖ Hezekiah seeks help. Isaiah 36:21-37:20.

- Hezekiah's first reaction was to seek God's help through prophet Isaiah (v. 2-5). God's answered immediately. He had heard the Assyrian blasphemy, and a rumor would make them go away (v. 6-7).
- After conquering Lachish, Sennacherib heard a false rumor about an Ethiopian attack. He sent threatening letters to Hezekiah just before leaving Judah (v. 8-13).
- Hezekiah brought these letters before God. He asked Him for liberation and acknowledged Him as Holy, King, and Creator (v. 16).

### ❖ The Assyrians are defeated. Isaiah 37:21-38.

- Satan wanted to annihilate Judah to prevent the birth of the Messiah and the redemption of the world. If Sennacherib had conquered Jerusalem, he would have got his way.
- He had left a contingent to siege Jerusalem. 185,000 of those soldiers were killed by an angel. Of course, Sennacherib didn't mention this in his mural. The king met his own death when he returned to his city. God had won.

## C Victory and defeat of Hezekiah. Isaiah 38; 39.

- ❖ In the middle of this crisis, Hezekiah fell ill, and Isaiah announced his death. The king turned to God with great lament. God heard him and gave him another 15 years of life.
- ❖ In his anguish, Hezekiah asked for a sign to confirm this great miracle. That sign was a miracle itself: the Sun went back because of his request (Isaiah 38:8).
- ❖ Hezekiah praised God for his recovery. Meanwhile, the Babylonian astronomers had watched this phenomenon and had heard about Hezekiah's recovery, so the king of Babylon sent his messengers to meet him (Isaiah 39).
- ❖ Hezekiah had an unprecedented opportunity to praise God's name before the Babylonian scholars, but he wasted it.