

## **Hezekiah's Faithful and Spiritual Response to Crisis Situation!**

### **Isaiah 37:1-20**

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#### **I. Historical & Biblical Context**

Chapters 36-39 are sometimes called the "Book of Hezekiah", and they help form the historical section of the Book of Isaiah. These passages are almost the exact repetition of 2 Kings 18:13; 17-20:19. It would be good to also read the whole chapters of 2 Kings 18-25; 2Chro. 29-31 to get a better understanding of Hezekiah complete story.

Unlike his father King Ahaz, who led Judah into idolatry and forsaken the worship of the God of Israel, Hezekiah made it his mission to restore true worship of God to the nation. He was truly dedicated to spiritual renewal and reform. His first act as king was to cleanse and reopen the Temple, which had been defiled and neglected under his father's rule (2 Chro 29:3). Hezekiah's earlier actions teach us the importance of leading with integrity and putting God at the center of both personal 's lives and leadership roles. He held fast to the Lord, and he did not depart from following Him (Ki.18:5-6).

Hezekiah had initially paid tribute to the Assyrian empire, under King Sennacherib to secure Judah's independence (2Ki 18:16). Later he refused further payments. His faith was evident when he decided to trust God instead not seeking an alliance with Egypt (Is.30:1-3). Hezekiah chose to seek the counsel of a godly Prophet (Isaiah) and go to the Temple to lay his crisis before the Lord God of Israel. This chapter highlights the importance of seeking divine guidance and the power of prayer. We see how God intervenes to protect Judah, foreshadowing the ultimate deliverance that will come through the Messiah, as prophesied in other parts of Isaiah 's writings (Is.9:6-7; 11:1-5).

## II. Hezekiah's Faithful and Spiritual Response to Crisis Situation!

1. **vv.1-4.** After receiving the threatening letter from King Sennacherib of Assyria, King Hezekiah tears his clothes and put on sackcloth. He went into the Temple of the Lord and sent his administrator, secretary and leading priest to Isaiah the prophet. He expressed his despair and asked for divine intervention. He expressed to Isaiah about these difficult and disgraceful times. "Our nation is like a woman too weak to give birth". He asked Isaiah to please pray for them and perhaps the Lord heard what disgraceful things Sennacherib and will intervene.

**This demonstrates the importance of seeking godly counsel and how strong his faith was by first going into the Temple. Hezekiah immediate response was one of humility and a desire to seek wisdom and directions from the Lord.**

- a) **Practical Application:** Turn to God in a Crisis; Like Hezekiah, we should turn to the Lord first when faced with overwhelming challenges and trusting in his wisdom and power. Ps. 46:1, reminds us that God is our hope and strength. Isaiah 26:3 reminds us that "He will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you and all who thoughts are fixes on you". Also Pro.3:5-6
  - b) **Seek Godly advice:** In difficult times, seek guidance from those who grounded in God's Word.
  - c) **Pray with faith:** Approach God with a sincere heart and faith filled prayers; believing in God's ability to intervene in our circumstances. Heb.11:6; Jas.5:16. Hezekiah approach God with a contrite heart, acknowledging His sovereignty and relying on His guidance.
  - d) **Trust in God's promises:** Hold fast to the promises of God, knowing that He is faithful to fulfill His word.
2. **vv.5 -7.** Isaiah sent a reply, back to Hezekiah as to what the Lord had revealed to him, he said, "**I am the Lord. Don't worry about the insulting things that have been said about me, I will upset him**

**with rumors about what is happening in his own country. He will meet a violent death there”.** This passage reminds us of the importance of seeking God’s guidance and relying on Him in trouble times. The Lord’s promise to protect His people and defeat their enemies resonates throughout the Bible, showing that God is faithful to those who trust in Him. This teaches us that God’s plan ultimately will prevail over the schemes of the enemy. This event serves as an example of the importance of humility and reverence and not being boisterous before the Lord. This prophecy was fulfilled when his sons assassinated him while he was worshiping in the temple of Nisroch (2Ki.19:35-37).

3. **vv.8-13.** Once again King Hezekiah received a threatening message from Sennacherib, boasting of his conquest and warning Hezekiah to not to trust in his God to deliver him from the Assyrian siege. Once again it reflects a recurring theme in the Bible of earthly leaders exalting themselves above God almighty, only to be humbled by His sovereign power. They were all well known for their ruthless conquering of nations. He did not respond to the Assyrian with fear or with haste. His decision to take the threatening letter to the house of the Lord and spread it out before Him is a powerful act of faith. Instead of being consumed with fear or anxiety, he chose to lay his fears before God and seek His intervention. We are encouraged by the Bible to cast all our anxieties on God (1Pt.5:7). Php.4:6-7 encourages believers to present their request to God.

**Practical Application:** In times of trouble, uncertainty or danger, let’s not lean to our own strength or give in to our fears. Turn to God in prayer, seek his counsel through His Word, and trust in His faithfulness to deliver us. God ultimately proved faithful to Hezekiah by sending the angel who struck down 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. Those who trust in the Lord will not be put to shame (Rom.10:11).0

**1. vv.14-20.** This section demonstrates to us, Hezekiah's unwavering trust in the power **and** sovereignty of God. Instead of panicking or trying to come up with a human solution to the threat, he turns to prayer and seeks divine help. **It is a reminder that no enemy is too great for God to overcome and those who put their trust Him will be delivered even from the most formidable threats. Hezekiah recognized who God was (1) Lord God All powerful, (2) who sits high above the winged creatures, (3) He is the Creator, (4) He is sovereign. He then continues to give the problems to God acknowledging that indeed the Assyrian king indeed was ruthless (he was specific).**

**In verse 20, Hezekiah added a "But". "But you are our God! We ask that you keep us safe... Then everyone in every kingdom will know that you are the only Lord." His motive was for his people and so others would know that there is only one True God of Israel.**

### **III. Conclusion:**

Prayer in times of crisis is not merely a ritualistic practice but a dynamic interaction with God. It acknowledges our human limitations and God's omnipotence. Through prayer, believers express their reliance on God's wisdom, timing and trusting that He will make all things good for those who love Him (Rom.8:28). Furthermore, prayer in crisis is an opportunity for spiritual growth and deepening faith. It aligns the believer's heart with God's will, helping to foster a sense of peace and hope (Jas.5:13).

In summary, prayer as a response to crisis is a testament to enduring faith and trust in God's providence. It is a spiritual discipline that not only seeks divine intervention but also cultivates a deeper relationship with the Creator. When those winds come upon us, we will bend but not break.