

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

ISRAEL: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

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PART 9: PRAYER OF DESPERATION

During the reign of King Hezekiah (715-686 B.C.), Isaiah became the national prophet of Judah and the leader of the priests and prophets in Jerusalem.

The Assyrian empire was at its height at this time, having crushed Egypt and reduced it from superpower status to that of a weak nation. Babylon was a vassal state of Assyria.

Assyria conquered the northern kingdom of Israel around 727 B.C. and Judah was the only kingdom that remained between Assyria and the defeated Egyptians.

THE CHARACTER OF HEZEKIAH

When Hezekiah became king of Judah, he inherited a corrupt administration from his father, Ahaz, who had led Judah deeply into idolatry.

Hezekiah began a reformation and cleaned out all the idolatry from Judah. **2 Kings 18:1-8**

It must have been heartbreaking for Hezekiah to witness the destruction of the northern kingdom. **verses 9-12**

King Shalmaneser died after taking Israel and the new king, Sennacherib, decided to conquer Judah.

The Assyrians took every city surrounding Judah in the 14th year of King Hezekiah with the exception of Jerusalem. Instead of summoning Isaiah and asking him to call upon God for their rescue, Hezekiah tried to pay off Sennacherib. **verses 13-16**

At the same time, Hezekiah ordered that the defenses of Jerusalem to be strengthened. **2 Chronicles 32:1-8**

TRYING EVERYTHING ELSE

Sennacherib accepted the gold and the silver and still made the decision to attack Jerusalem even though Hezekiah paid him. **Isaiah 36:1-2**

The general of the Assyrian army was sent to Jerusalem with a large armed force to begin psychological warfare. **verses 3-9**

As a true servant of the Devil, Rabshakeh tried to tell Hezekiah's delegation that the Lord had told him to come and destroy Jerusalem. **verse 10**

Hezekiah's delegation tried to persuade Rabshakeh to speak in the Assyrian language so the people on the walls would not be able to understand what was said. **verse 11**

Rabshakeh wanted the common people to hear so that he could instill fear into them. **verses 12-20**

Bribery, diplomacy and military resistance yielded nothing and Hezekiah had no other place to go to but to the Lord. **verses 21-22; 37:1-5**



What Hezekiah, his leadership and people did not know is that God is so much powerful than people; He is the Creator and a small conflict like this is like an anthill for a grown man. **Isaiah 55:6-13**

ANSWER FROM GOD

God revealed that the King Sennacherib would be forced to return to Nineveh and be killed by the sword. **Isaiah 37:6-7**

SATAN HATES TO BE DEFEATED

When Rabshakeh returned to join King Sennacherib and the main force, he learned the king had moved from Lachish and was fighting Libnah. After hearing a rumor that the Emperor of Ethiopia was marching toward the Assyrians, Rabshakeh tried to break the spirit of King Hezekiah and the people of Judah a final time. **verses 8-13**

PRAYER IS A GAME CHANGER

Hezekiah took the letter from Rabshakeh and went to the temple and laid it out before the Lord. **verses 14-20**

God responded to Hezekiah by speaking through Isaiah. **verses 21-32**

The king of Assyria would not enter Jerusalem; instead, he would return to his own city. **verse 33-34**

God will defend Jerusalem. **verse 35**

God instructed an angel to smite the Assyrians and 165,000 soldiers were slain that night. **verse 36; Ezekiel 9:1-6**

Sennacherib quickly left Judah and went back to Nineveh, where he was murdered in the temple of his god. **Isaiah 37:37-38**

God wants you to implicitly trust Him! **Proverbs 3:5-8; Matthew 6:33-34**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?