

No Strength to Deliver

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Isaiah 37:1-7 – King Hezekiah’s Problem:

- The king of Assyria, Sennacherib, was on a rampage – conquering and defeating surrounding cities
- In this story he is threatening to conquer Juda
- He intended to frighten Hezekiah away from God, but accomplished just the opposite
- The King recognized the day of trouble was upon them
- The time of birth was upon them and there was no strength to deliver – so let prayer go forth (When a child can’t proceed to be born – death of both the child and mother is imminent)
- Prayer is the midwife of mercy that helps to bring forth

In Chapter 36 – the enemy of God’s people worked to frighten them from their confidence in God.

- He asked them what confidence were they relying upon, that they thought they could rebel against him?
- He told them that the alliance they had with Egypt, it was relying upon a crushed reed
- And if they say they trust in the Lord our God, he will remind them that it was Hezekiah who torn down their alters to idols – appealing to the idolatrous party in Juda.
- Next he tries to persuade the people to desert Hezekiah and join him and his master
- He even tells them the Lord has sent him to go up against Juda
- He shouts so all the people on the wall of Juda can hear him – questioning “**Has any of the gods of all the other nations delivered his land from the hands of the King of Assyria?** Where are those gods now, so what makes Israel think their God can deliver them out of his hands?”
- But the people were silent they were told not to answer him.

At the End of Chapter 37:33-38 - GOD hears the prayers of his prophet Isaiah:

- **The King** - will not even come into the city, nor even shoot an arrow into the city
- **The Angel of the LORD** - went into the camp of the Assyrians and killed 185,000 men and “in the morning they were all dead corpses”.
- **King Sennacherib** – with no army to fight, decides to depart and return to Nineveh.
- **Later he was killed** - by two of his own sons as he was worshipping his idol god.
- **GOD heard his boasting and threats** – but GOD said he would fight for Israel.
- **When time to give birth – GOD will provide the strength and the power to deliver – Just call and trust in Him!**