

Introduction:

Our text comes from 2 Kings 17-18 and Isaiah 36-37. What

I) Background

A) Assyrian Empire

1. Conquered Israel.

**2 Kings 17:4** And the king of Assyria uncovered a conspiracy by Hoshea; for he had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and brought no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison. **5** Now the king of Assyria went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years.

2. The next verses list the sins of Israel and points out the punishment was from God, due to their sins.

**2 Kings 17:18** Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.

3. This did not happen overnight but from the time of Jeroboam to Hoshea there was decline due to idolatry, moral corruption, and a reliance on other nations.

B) During the reign of Hezekiah

1. A reformer as he tore down the altars and high places.

**2 Kings 18:3** And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done. **4** He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan. **5** He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him.

2. Yet he saw the nations around him be conquered by Assyria and his small

nation was left.

3. It was the 14<sup>th</sup> year of his reign.

**2 Kings 18:13** And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.

## II) The Rabshakeh's Speech

A) Rabshakeh – a military title, official representative of Sennacherib.

1. At first Hezekiah tried to appease Assyria by paying tribute but Assyria was determined to conquer all of Judah.

**2 Kings 18:17** Then the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rabsaris, and the Rabshakeh from Lachish, with a great army against Jerusalem, to King Hezekiah. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they had come up, they went and stood by the aqueduct from the upper pool, which was on the highway to the Fuller's Field.

2. The Assyrian Army surrounds Jerusalem, an army of 200,000 men. The people of the city are on the wall as Hezekiah sends out a delegation.

**2 Kings 18:18** And when they had called to the king, Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to them.

B) His points in his first speech.

1. Their misplaced trust.

**Isaiah 36:6** "Look! You are trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him. **7** "But if you say to me, 'We trust in the LORD our God,' is it not He whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away, and said to Judah and Jerusalem, 'You shall worship before this altar?'" **8** "Now therefore, I urge you, give a pledge to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give you two thousand horses—if you are able on your part to put riders on them! **9** "How then will you repel one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put your trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen?"

- a. Don't trust in or any other nation.

- b. Don't listen to your king, he has removed the high places.
  - c. Don't trust in your military power; you can't even put together a calvary of 2,000 men.
2. The destruction of Jerusalem is the work of God, Sennacherib is actually doing the Lord's will.

**Isaiah 36:10** "Have I now come up without the LORD against this land to destroy it? The LORD said to me, 'Go up against this land, and destroy it.'"

- a. To fight against us is to fight against your God.
3. He by passes the envoy and speaks directly to the people on the wall.

**Isaiah 36:11** Then Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in the Aramaic language, for we understand it; and do not speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people who are on the wall." **12** But the Rabshakeh said, "Has my master sent me to your master and to you to speak these words, and not to the men who sit on the wall, who will eat and drink their own waste with you?"

C) Second speech

1. Neither Hezekiah nor the Lord will be able to deliver them.

**Isaiah 36:13** Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out with a loud voice in Hebrew, and said, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! **14** "Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you; **15** 'nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, "The LORD will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'"

- 2. You will be conquered just like all the other nations.
- 3. Give up and things will be much better.

**Isaiah 36:16** "Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: 'Make peace with me by a present and come out to me; and every one of you eat from his own vine and every one from his own fig tree, and every one of you drink the waters of his own cistern; **17** 'until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards.

- a. You will receive food, instead of starving during a siege.
- b. Drink water instead of die to thirst.
- c. You will go to a land of prosperity – new grain, new wine, bread, and vineyards.

D) Fact check – most of his claims were either untrue or irrelevant.

- 1. Their punishment was not due to tearing down the altars of the various gods.
- 2. But due to their own unfaithfulness to the one true God.
- 3. They would go to a land of slavery.

### III) The Outcome – [Isaiah 37](#)

A) Hezekiah's reaction.

**Isaiah 37:1** And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. **2** Then he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz. **3** And they said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah: 'This day is a day of trouble and rebuke and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but there is no strength to bring them forth. **4**' It may be that the LORD your God will hear the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the LORD your God has heard. Therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.'"

- 1. He ultimately concentrated on God.
- 2. He enlisted prayer.

B) The Lord's Deliverance

**Isaiah 37:36** Then the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead.

- 1. That big army wasn't so big now.

2. One person and God is a majority, actually God doesn't need numbers but we need God.
3. The death of Sennacherib.

**Isaiah 37:37** So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh. **38** Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

4. Sennacherib nor Assyria ever touched the walls of Jerusalem.

#### IV) Application -

##### A) Do Not Listen to the Rabshakeh

1. Most of those opposed to God either make false arguments or make statements which are irrelevant.
2. Communist teacher who ask if someone is a believer in God. Then tells the person to pray to God for food. Then the teach brings out a bag of candy.
3. But God gives us the earth, rain, and sunshine to grow the crops to make the food.

##### B) Who is the Rabshakeh in your life.

1. Those who tell you to not trust in God.
2. Those who tell you to live just for today and don't think about tomorrow.
3. You listening to the wrong people.

Conclusion:

There will always be Rabshakeh's but there is one true God. He sent His Son to die for you. Are you willing to serve Him?