

Isaiah Week 26

ISAIAH

THE FIFTH GOSPEL



Isaiah 36: 1 (NIV)

In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them.

Isaiah 36: 2 (NIV)

Then the king of Assyria sent his field commander with a large army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. When the commander stopped at the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer's Field,

Isaiah 36: 3 (NIV)

Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went out to him.

Isaiah 36: 4 (NIV)

*The field commander said to them,
“Tell Hezekiah:*

*““This is what the great king, the
king of Assyria, says: On what are
you basing this confidence of yours?”*

Isaiah 36: 5 (NIV)

You say you have counsel and might for war – but you speak only empty words. On whom are you depending, that you rebel against me?

Question

Do you remember who the
people of Judah and
Jerusalem were putting their
trust in?

Isaiah 36: 6 (NIV)

Look, I know you are depending on Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff, which pierces the hand of anyone who leans on it! Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who depend on him.

Isaiah 36: 7 (NIV)

But if you say to me, “We are depending on the Lord our God” – isn’t he the one whose high places and altars Hezekiah removed, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, “You must worship before this altar”

Isaiah 36: 8 (NIV)

“Come now, make a bargain with my master, the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses – if you can put riders on them!

Question

How does satan operate?



THE FIRST TASTE IS FREE...

Isaiah 36: 8 (NIV)

“Come now, make a bargain with my master, the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses – if you can put riders on them!

Isaiah 36: 9 (NIV)

How then can you repulse one officer of the least of my master's officials, even though you are depending on Egypt for chariots and horsemen?

Isaiah 36: 9 (NLT)

With your tiny army, how can you think of challenging even the weakest contingent of my master's troops, even with the help of Egypt's chariots and charioteers?

Isaiah 36: 10 (NIV)

Furthermore, have I come to attack and destroy this land without the Lord? The Lord himself told me to march against this country and destroy it.”

Isaiah 36: 11 (NIV)

Then Eliakim, Shebna and Joah said to the field commander, “Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, since we understand it. Don’t speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people on the wall.”

Question

Why do the Jewish leaders not want the Assyrians to speak in Hebrew?

Question

How powerful are words?

Isaiah 36: 12 (NIV)

But the commander replied, “Was it only to your master and you that my master sent me to say these things, and not to the people sitting on the wall – who, like you, will have to eat their own excrement and drink their own urine?”

Isaiah 36: 13-14 (NIV)

Then the commander stood and called out in Hebrew, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you. He cannot deliver you!"

Isaiah 36: 15 (NIV)

Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the Lord when he says, 'The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'

Question

Why does satan not want us
to put our trust in the Lord?

Isaiah 36: 16 (NIV)

“Do not listen to Hezekiah. This is what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me and come out to me. Then each of you will eat fruit from your own vine and fig tree and drink water from your own cistern,

Isaiah 36: 17 (NIV)

*until I come and take you to a land
like your own – a land of grain and
new wine, a land of bread and
vineyards.*

Isaiah 36: 18 (NIV)

“Do not let Hezekiah mislead you when he says, ‘The Lord will deliver us.’ Have the gods of any nations ever delivered their lands from the hand of the king of Assyria?

Isaiah 36: 19 (NIV)

*Where are the gods of Hamath and
Arpad? Where are the gods of
Sepharvaim? Have they rescued
Samaria from my hand?*

Isaiah 36: 20 (NIV)

Who of all the gods of these countries have been able to save their lands from me? How then can the Lord deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"

Question

How does satan use our fears
and anxieties against us?

Question

How many times does God
tell us to not be afraid in the
Bible?

Question

365!











Isaiah 36: 21-22 (NIV)

But the people remained silent and said nothing in reply, because the king had commanded, “Do not answer him.” Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went to Hezekiah, with their clothes torn, and told him what the field commander had said.

Isaiah 37: 1-2 (NIV)

When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the temple of the Lord. He sent Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and the leading priests, all wearing sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.

Isaiah 37: 3 (NIV)

They told him, “This is what Hezekiah says: This day is a day of distress and rebuke and disgrace, as when children come to the moment of birth and there is no strength to deliver them.

Isaiah 37: 4 (NIV)

It may be that the Lord your God will hear the words of the field commander, whom his master, the king of Assyria, has sent to ridicule the living God, and that he will rebuke him for the words the Lord your God has heard. Therefore pray for the remnant that still survives.”

Isaiah 37: 5-6 (NIV)

When King Hezekiah's officials came to Isaiah, Isaiah said to them, "Tell your master, 'This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid of what you have heard – those words with which the underlings of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.

Isaiah 37: 7 (NIV)

Listen! When he hears a certain report, I will make him want to return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword.”

Question

What two things is God saying He will do to the Assyrian King?

Isaiah 37: 7 (NIV)

Listen! When he hears a certain report, I will make him want to return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword.”

Isaiah 37: 8 (NIV)

When the field commander heard that the king of Assyria had left Lachish, he withdrew and found the king fighting against Libnah.

Isaiah 37: 9 (NIV)

Now Sennacherib received a report that Tirhakah, the king of Cush, was marching out to fight against him.

When he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah with this word:

Isaiah 37: 10-11 (NIV)

Say to Hezekiah king of Judah: Do not let the god you depend on deceive you when he says, 'Jerusalem will not be given into the hands of the king of Assyria.' Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries, destroying them completely. And will you be delivered?

Isaiah 37: 12-13 (NIV)

Did the gods of the nations that were destroyed by my predecessors deliver them – the gods of Gozan, Harran, Rezeph and the people of Eden who were in Tel Assar? Where is the king of Hamath or the king of Arpad? Where are the kings of Lair, Sepharvaim, Hena and Ivvah?”

Isaiah 37: 14 (NIV)

Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord.

Isaiah 37: 14-15 (NIV)

Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord.

And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord:

Question

What is the first thing Hezekiah did after reading this threatening letter?

Question

What should we do with the threats we face?

Isaiah 37: 16-17 (NIV)

“Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Give ear, Lord, and hear; open your eyes, Lord, and see; listen to all the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God.

Isaiah 37: 18-19 (NIV)

“It is true, Lord, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste all these peoples and their lands. They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands.”

Isaiah 37: 20 (NIV)

Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, Lord, are the only God.

Question

Did anything in Hezekiah's prayer stand out to you?

Isaiah 37: 21-22a (NIV)

Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, this is the word the Lord has spoken against him:

Isaiah 37: 22b (NIV)

*Virgin Daughter Zion
despises and mocks you.*

*Daughter Jerusalem
tosses her head as you flee.*

Isaiah 37: 23 (NIV)

*Who is it you have ridiculed and
blasphemed?*

*Against whom have you raised
your voice
and lifted your eyes in pride?*

Against the Holy One of Israel!

Question

When God's people are ridiculed and attacked, who is actually being attacked?

Isaiah 37: 24-25 (NIV)

By your messengers you have ridiculed the Lord. And you have said, 'With my many chariots I have ascended the heights of the mountains, the utmost heights of Lebanon. I have cut down its tallest cedars, the choicest of its junipers.

Isaiah 37: 24-25 (NIV)

I have reached its remotest heights,
the finest of its forests.

I have dug wells in foreign lands
and drunk the water there.

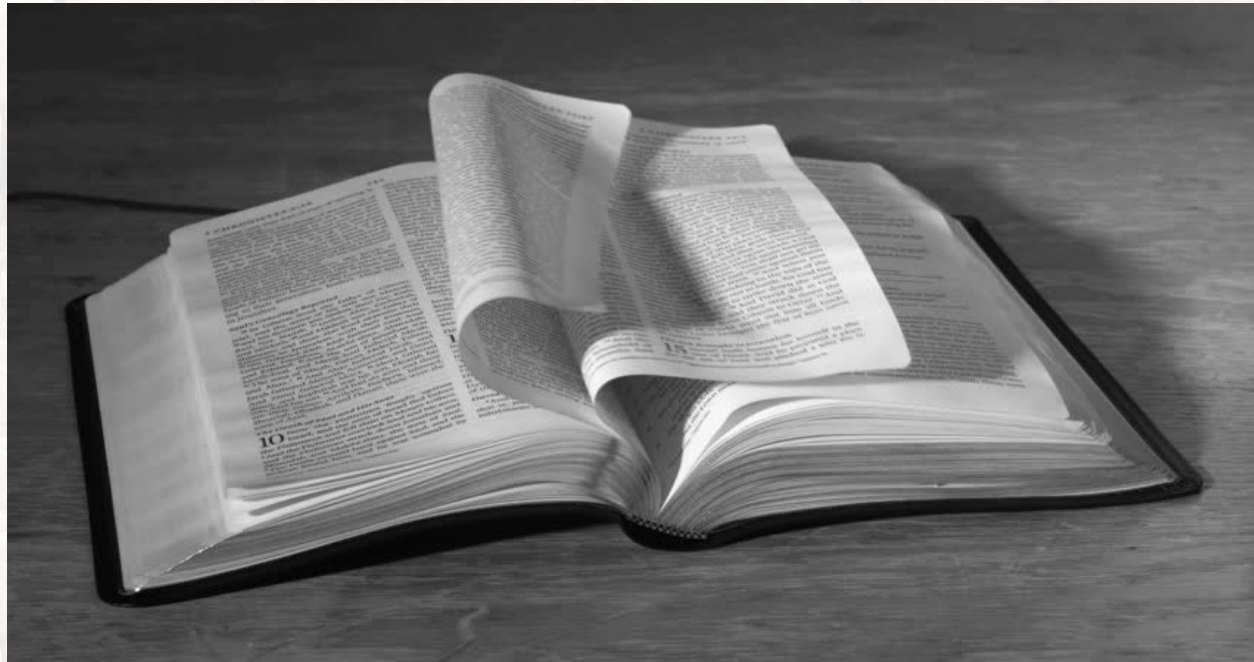
With the soles of my feet

I have dried up all the streams of
Egypt.'

Question

Does this sound familiar?

Please turn to:
Isaiah 14: 12-14



Isaiah 14: 12-14 (NIV)

*How you have fallen from heaven,
morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!
You said in your heart,*

Isaiah 14: 12-14 (NIV)

“I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

Isn't it interesting what the
middle letter of the following
word is:

prIde

Question

Who does Sennacherib think is responsible for creating his great kingdom?

Question

Who is responsible for creating Sennacherib's great kingdom?

Isaiah 37: 26 (NIV)

“Have you not heard?

Long ago I ordained it.

In days of old I planned it;

now I have brought it to pass,

that you have turned fortified cities

into piles of stone.

Isaiah 37: 27 (NIV)

*Their people, drained of power,
are dismayed and put to shame.
They are like plants in the field,
like tender green shoots,
like grass sprouting on the roof,
scorched before it grows up.*

Isaiah 37: 28 (NIV)

*“But I know where you are
and when you come and go
and how you rage against me.*”

Isaiah 37: 29 (NIV)

*Because you rage against me
and because your insolence has
reached my ears,
I will put my hook in your nose
and my bit in your mouth,
and I will make you return
by the way you came.*

Isaiah 37: 30 (NIV)

*“This will be the sign for you,
Hezekiah:*

*“This year you will eat what grows
by itself, and the second year what
springs from that.*

*But in the third year sow and reap,
plant vineyards and eat their
fruit.*

Isaiah 37: 33 (NIV)

“Therefore this is what the Lord says concerning the king of Assyria:

*“He will not enter this city
or shoot an arrow here.*

*He will not come before it with
shield*

or build a siege ramp against it.

Isaiah 37: 34-35 (NIV)

*By the way that he came he will
return;*

*he will not enter this city,”
declares the Lord.*

*“I will defend this city and save it,
for my sake and for the sake of
David my servant!”*

Isaiah 37: 36 (NIV)

Then the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning – there were all the dead bodies!

Isaiah 37: 37 (NIV)

*So Sennacherib king of Assyria
broke camp and withdrew. He
returned to Nineveh and stayed
there.*

Question

What do you think happens to the prideful Sennacherib?

Remember what God said would happen to him back in verse 7?

Isaiah 37: 7 (NIV)

Listen! When he hears a certain report, I will make him want to return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword.”

Isaiah 37: 38 (NIV)

One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisrok, his sons Adrammelek and Sharezer killed him with the sword, and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son succeeded him as king.

Isaiah 38: 1 (NIV)

In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover."

Question

Who should we turn to when facing serious illness or disease?

Isaiah 38: 2-3 (NIV)

Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, "Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

Question

Does anything stand out to you in Hezekiah's prayer?

Isaiah 38: 4-5 (NIV)

Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah: "Go and tell Hezekiah, 'This is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life.'