

Between Two Kings

Isaiah 36-39

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April 10, 2011

In Jesus Christ, Yahweh became a man, and before ascending His throne again, he lived before the unseen King of all, his Father, and perfectly trusted him.

Love the Gospel, Live the Gospel, Advance the Gospel

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story and have the Central Character live in us.

- Describe the difficult situation Hezekiah was in.
- Hezekiah stood between threats and promises (between two kings). How did his situation compare with his father Ahaz (Isaiah 7-9)?
- We stand between Gospel promises and this world's threats/ lies. What Gospel promises are we called to believe?
- How are the threats of the field commander like that of the "father of lies" (the devil) himself? What are some of the lies, threats and arguments we hear from our surrounding culture (laying siege to our hearts)?
- Where does Hezekiah go with his fears (national and personal crisis)? Read Hezekiah's prayer (37:14-20). What can we learn from it? What fears do you need to bring to the LORD but have neglected to do so?
- What will happen if we're preoccupied with the LORD's glory? How will that affect our view of life's circumstances?
- What does this story reveal about the LORD's character and ways? How is the *trustworthiness* of God put on bold display? Why is this so important for us to see? How can our lives increasingly become a demonstration of the LORD's trustworthiness?
- What happened to Hezekiah in Ch 38-39?
- The good news: The King (Yahweh) that delivered Hezekiah became the King (Jesus) that delivers you and me!

The year is 701 BC

About 20 years prior, Assyria destroyed the 10 northern tribes of Israel and led them into exile.

Assyria has destroyed the fortified cities of Judah and has now come to lay siege on Jerusalem.

Isaiah 36:1-21

Put yourself in King Hezekiah's shoes.

Isaiah 36:2 - Isaiah met Ahaz (Hezekiah's father) at this same place over 30 years prior.

God is calling us to live a life that *demonstrates* active trust in Him.

A faith that rests fully on the trustworthiness of God.

1. The threats of an earthly king (Sennacherib) (Isaiah 36:1-22)

One of the big questions of the text is found in 36:4 – "On what are you basing this confidence of yours?"

The Field Commander's threats are loaded

- Judah's military strategy
- Egypt's strength and faithfulness
- He argues that the LORD was upset at Hezekiah because Hezekiah destroyed the shrines and high places of worship apart from the temple.

- That Judah was unskilled and small in number
- That the LORD himself had sent the Assyrians
- That Hezekiah's leadership couldn't be trusted
- That they would be treated well if they surrendered

Genesis 3:1 - The serpent begins with questioning God's word; he's attempting to cast doubt on the authority of God's word.

The real issue begins to unfold in Isaiah 36:18-21

- That Yahweh is just like all the other gods

The conflict becomes clearer to us: this is between the King of all (Yahweh) and the King of Assyria.

2. The promises of a divine king (Yahweh) (Isaiah 37:1-38)

Yahweh's promises are given (37:6-7)
Sennacherib's letter is received (37:14)
Hezekiah stands between two kings with two decrees

We stand between Gospel promises and this world's threats/ lies

Hezekiah recognizes that this is not *his* battle to fight and so he brings it the LORD in Prayer. **Isaiah 37:14-20**

Ray Ortland Jr: *"He's not praying, "Lord why are you allowing this to happen to me?" He's praying, "Lord will you not glorify yourself in this?" His own personal fate is not his concern. He's released from that prison. He has become a God-centered man, and he is courageously undaunted because of it.*

God is not here to service our convenience and our selfish dreams, but to display his glory in salvation."

- Hezekiah is completely preoccupied with God! Who He is (16), His honor (17), His uniqueness (18-19), and the revelation of His glory to the world (20).

Answer to prayer (Isaiah 37:21-22)

Do you believe that prayer is one of God's chosen means to accomplish His purposes?

Here's how it went down: **Isaiah 37:36-38**

The trustworthiness of Yahweh is upheld and put on bold display!

3. The frailty and failure of an earthly king (Hezekiah) (Isaiah 38:1-39:8)

Ch. 38-39 are believed to be chronologically out of order. They took place some time before Ch 36-37. Why?

The nation of Judah saw trust in Yahweh as a way of getting out of crisis but failed to see it as the lifelong expression of covenant relationship.

4. The anticipation of a divine king (Jesus)

Hezekiah is **not** the promised Messiah.