

# Isaiah 36,37

2-17-05

## “Strategy Against Our Enemy!”

### 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Announcements:** Girls Varsity Basketball 1<sup>st</sup> playoff game right now in our Gym – They finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the **Big Sky League** playing Fairmont Prep.
  - 1.1.1. **Girls Varsity Soccer** won the Big Sky league (8-0) - play Pomona Catholic @ 3:00 Fri @ MSJC-Menifee campus.
  - 1.1.2. **Boys Varsity Soccer** won the Big Sky league (6-1-1) - play Aquinas @ 3:00 Sat @ MSJC-Menifee campus.
  - 1.1.3. **Kathy Mossa - home next weekend!**
  - 1.1.4. **Men’s trip - to Belize.**
  
- 1.2. **We all face an enemy!** – It may be one bad **thought**(Anger); It may be one bad **giant**(Goliath); or one bad **army**(Assyria).
  - 1.2.1. **The spiritual fight is exactly the same.**
    - 1.2.1.1. They stem from the same foe behind it(Satan).
    - 1.2.1.2. He has the same purpose in mind(to make us fear & falter & ultimately fall)
  - 1.2.2. **In these 2 chapters we can learn much about warfare against our own spiritual enemy the devil.**
  
- 1.3. A. W. Tozer, “What we need very badly these days is a company of Christians who are prepared to **trust God as completely now** as they know they must do at the **last day**. For each of us the time is coming when we shall have **nothing but God**. Health and wealth and friends and hiding places will be swept away, and we shall **have only God**. To the man of **pseudo faith** that is a terrifying thought, but to **real faith** it is one of the most comforting thoughts the heart can entertain.”

### 2. **FACING OUR ENEMY! (ch.36)**

- 2.1. Assyria wasn’t content with just taking Israel, they wanted Judah also.
  - 2.1.1. There are 2 **top tricks** of the enemy to try to shake our confidence in God. They come by way of...**Taunting us & Intimidating us!**
  
- 2.2. **Taunts!** (1-10)
- 2.3. (2) **Rabshakeh** – a title not his name. A field commander.
- 2.4. (3) Hezekiah’s 3 negotiators.
- 2.5. (4-7) **Q: In whom do you trust?**
  - 2.5.1. Yourself? The world? The Lord?
  - 2.5.2. He knows the most important thing is **where** you put **your faith**(4).
    - 2.5.2.1. **Satan knows that...do you?**
  - 2.5.3. **Q: How do you respond when you are being taunted?**
    - 2.5.3.1. **Q: In sports? On the frwy? Kids on the playground? Young adults in the College classroom?**

- 2.6. (7) Rabshakeh misunderstood this warning.  
 2.6.1. There is a **sign on a convent** here in southern California that reads: *Absolutely No Trespassing--Violators Will Be Prosecuted to the Full Extent of the Law. Signed, "The Sisters of Mercy."*
- 2.7. **Intimidation!** (11-20)
- 2.8. (11-5) **Aramaic** (*Syrian Language*) was the language of diplomacy.  
 2.8.1. It is similar to Hebrew but the common people would not have understood it.
- 2.9. (16,17) **The enemy offers to give you something in return for your **obedience to him!****  
 2.9.1. i.e. 2000 horses(vs.8) & your own vine, fig tree, cistern(vs.16).  
 2.9.2. **But** there is always an "**until**" involved(17).  
 2.9.3. **Q: What's he offering you right now? What color is your carrot?**  
 2.9.3.1. **Oh, his carrots come in all shapes & sizes!**
- 2.9.4. Rabshakeh is **like** a stranger that is offering candy to the child on the road to get into his car.  
 2.9.4.1. Or like the snake on Jungle Book(Kaa)...**"Look into my eyes"** as he hypnotizes Mowgli the man-cub.
- 2.10. (20) He destroyed 46 towns & villages...according to his own record.  
 2.10.1. He destroyed the Syrian & Mesopotamian gods, which couldn't deliver them...**Why should the Judeans think the Lord would deliver them?**
- 2.11. **Response!** (21,22)
- 2.12. **They refused to answer!**
- 2.13. Never negotiate with Satan. (e.g. Jesus during temptation)  
 2.13.1. James 4:7 **"Resist the devil and he will flee from you."**  
 2.13.2. Eph.4:27 **"do not give the devil a foothold."**  
 2.13.3. 1 Pet.5:8,9 **"...your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him,..."**
- 2.14. **Q: What/Who is taunting or intimidating you right now?**  
 2.14.1. **Q: What will be your biblical response?**  
**Q: What is your normal reaction?**
- 2.15. There is never panic in trust!

### 3. **FIGHTING OUR ENEMY!** (ch.37:1-20)

- 3.1. Not all victories are as **dramatic** as this one, but this does show you **what to do** when you are attacked by the enemy!

- 3.2. **[1<sup>st</sup> Step] Get Alone with God!** (1)
- 3.3. Only **the Lord** can work in your heart & turn your **fears** into **faith!**
- 3.3.1. Kierkegaard, "Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays."
- 3.3.2. By faith take everything to him in prayer!
- 3.3.3. **Story: Joseph Scriven** in the early 1800's was to be married in the morning, when his fiancé accidentally drowned the night before their scheduled wedding.
- 3.3.3.1. Later...upon learning of his mothers serious illness & unable to be w/her I far-off Dublin, he wrote her a letter of comfort enclosing the words...
- 3.3.4. *What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins & grief's to bear!  
What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer!*
- 3.3.5. This was never intended to be a hymn.
- 3.4. **[2<sup>nd</sup> Step] Call on Prayer Support!** (2-4)
- 3.5. Calling in backup doesn't mean you leave!
- 3.5.1. No they back **You** up.
- 3.6. Hezekiah considered God's glorious name to have been **insulted & profaned** by the pagan nation.<sup>1</sup>
- 3.7. (4) He asks simply for Isaiah the prophet to **pray** for the remnant in Judah.
- 3.8. **[3<sup>rd</sup> Step] Do not be Afraid!** (5-13)
- 3.9. (5-7) In every battle, His word to you is, "*Do not be afraid of*"!
- 3.9.1. **Why?** He has everything under control! – *Do you believe that saint?*
- 3.9.2. What an encouragement when your prayer partner reminds you, "**God will answer!**"
- 3.10. (8,9) Side tracked just for a little while.
- 3.11. (10-13) Sennachereb send sword to Hezekiah.
- 3.12. **[4<sup>th</sup> Step] Get Passionate in Prayer!** (14,15)
- 3.13. I love how he shows God what he wrote about Him!
- 3.13.1. **Q:** *Can we do the same today?* – I think we should!
- 3.13.1.1. Nasty letter...show it to God! – Unjust Lawsuit against you/ your company...Lord?
- 3.14. [William Cowper] "**Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.**"

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<sup>1</sup> Shepherd's Notes; pg.52

3.15. **[5<sup>th</sup> Step] Be Concerned w/God's Glory & Reputation!** (16-20)

3.16. More than anything else Hezekiah was concerned for the **Glory & Reputation of God!**

3.16.1. Q: How is God's reputation in your life?

3.16.2. Q: Is our 1<sup>st</sup> prayer... "*Hallowed be thy name!*"

3.16.2.1. "*Glory in His holy name!*" 1 Chron.16:10

3.17. Q: What fact did Rabshakeh's ignore which invalidated the basic assumption of his argument?

3.17.1. He didn't realize the difference between "god" & "God"!

#### 4. **DEFEATING OUR ENEMY! (ch.37:21-38)**

4.1. **Answered Prayer!** (21-29)

4.2. (21) The words of the **enemy** will discourage you, but **Gods Word** will encourage you.

4.3. **Hezekiah prayed** to the Lord, & the Lord immediately answered through **Isaiah!**

4.3.1. Q: Have you ever had God answer your prayer via a friend giving you counsel?

4.4. (22) Now the Assyrian's will be mocked!

4.5. **Judah's Blessings!** (30-32)

4.6. The Assyrian's devastated the countryside.

4.6.1. The next 2 years would be difficult; but in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, they would sow & reap crops as in normal times.

4.7. (31) **I've always loved the spiritual principle/application here!**

4.7.1. Spiritually if we **take root downward**(digging deep into God's word), we will then **bear fruit upward!**

4.8. **Jerusalem Remains!** (33-35)

4.9. You will continue as a **people**, as a **city**, as a **nation**...for my sake!

4.10. **Sennacherib's Defeat!** (36-37)

4.11. 1 angel 185,000 dead. **And he probably didn't break an angelic sweat!**

4.11.1. Jesus said in Gethsemane, "**Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?**"(about 78,000)

4.11.1.1. **What could they have done???** [that's 14,430,000,000]

- 4.12. **Sennacherib's Death!** (38)
- 4.13. **Irony:** Sennacherib defied the God of Israel, & yet **he died** in the house of his god *who could not protect him!*
- 4.14. Oswald Chambers, "Trustfulness is based on **confidence in God**, whose ways I do not understand. If I did, there would be **no need for trust**."
- 4.15. William Carey, "The future is as bright as the promises of God!"