

The background of the slide is a full-page image of a mountainous landscape at sunrise or sunset. The sky is a mix of deep blues, greens, and oranges, with bright rays of light emanating from behind the clouds. The mountains in the foreground are rugged and covered in sparse vegetation, with a deep valley between them. The overall mood is one of awe and divine light.

SALVATION IS OF THE LORD

A Study of Isaiah - #15


High-Level Outline

I. Sovereign Judgment of All (1-39)

- A. Judgment on Judah (1-6)
- B. Judgment on Judah and Her Invaders (7-12)
- C. Judgment against Heathen Nations (13-27)
- D. Woes against Jerusalem (28-35)
- E. Transition of Threatening Empires (36-39)

II. God's Salvation of Zion (40-66)

- A. Superiority of Jehovah over Idols (40-48)
- B. "Things That Make for Peace" (49-57)
- C. Establishment of Zion (58-66)

The background of the slide is a dramatic landscape. In the foreground, there are dark, rugged mountains with sparse vegetation. The middle ground shows a valley with more mountains in the distance. The sky is filled with clouds and a bright light source, possibly the sun, creating a rainbow-like effect with colors ranging from deep blue and green on the left to warm orange and red on the right. The overall atmosphere is one of awe and grandeur.

HISTORICAL TRANSITION OF EMPIRES

Isaiah 36-39



ASSYRIA THREATENS JERUSALEM

Isaiah 36:1-37:38

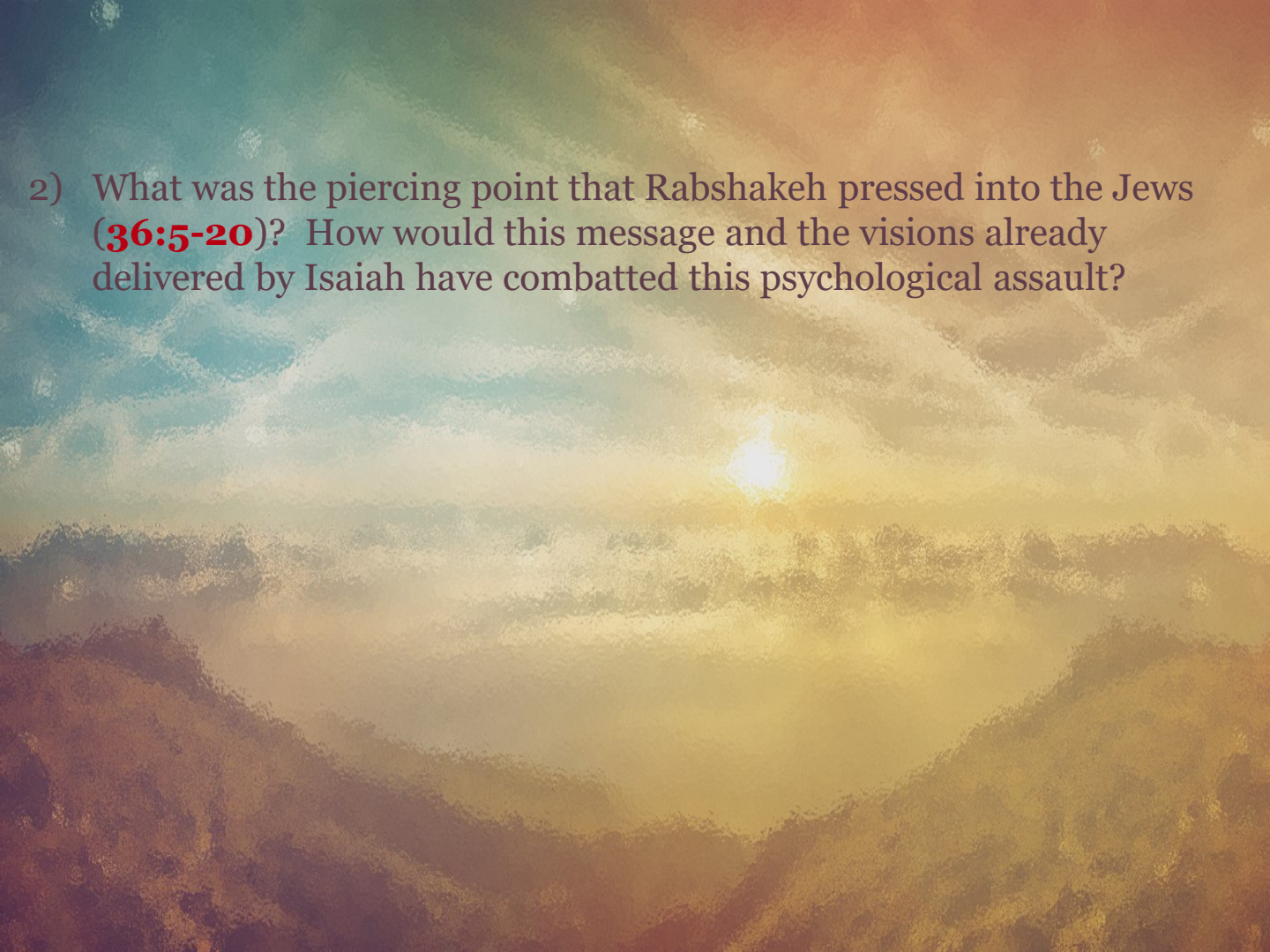
Mercy

*Now it came to pass in the **fourteenth** year of **King Hezekiah** that **Sennacherib** king of **Assyria** came up against **all the fortified cities** of Judah and **took them**. Then the king of Assyria sent the **Rabshakeh** with **a great army** from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. And he stood by the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller's Field. And **Eliakim** the son of Hilkiah, who was **over the household**, **Shebna the scribe**, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to him. (**36:1-3**)*

- God said He would demote Shebna, toss him into a “*large country*”, & give his position to Eliakim (**22:15-21**).
- God punished Shebna and gave Eliakim his place, true to His Word.
- Presumably Shebna repented, allowing him to continue to serve and avoid at least being tossed into a “*large country*” and dying there (**Jer. 18:1-11**)

“Not One of These Shall Fail”

- 1) What prophecies of Isaiah were fulfilled by the history recorded in **36:1-4, 11, 21-22**?
 - **7:17** – *“Bring the king Assyria upon you and your people”*
 - **7:3-17** – Rabshakeh stood in same location where Isaiah warned Ahaz to trust in the Lord for salvation.
 - **7:19-25** – Assyrians cover Judah and desolate it.
 - Assyrian records state Sennacherib sacked 46 cities and villages and carried away over 200,000 into captivity.
 - **7:7-8** – Assyrians surround Jerusalem and *“reach up to the neck”*.
 - **10:5-14** – Assyrian considers Jerusalem and her “gods” like all others already conquered.
 - **33:7** – *“Valiant ones cry outside”*
 - **33:7** – *“Ambassadors weep bitterly”*

The background of the slide is a full-page artistic image. It depicts a vast landscape with a sunburst breaking through a layer of clouds. The sky transitions from a deep teal on the left to a warm, golden-yellow on the right, where the sun is located. Below the clouds, a range of mountains is visible, rendered in dark, textured brushstrokes of brown and purple. The overall style is reminiscent of a classical oil painting.

2) What was the piercing point that Rabshakeh pressed into the Jews (**36:5-20**)? How would this message and the visions already delivered by Isaiah have combatted this psychological assault?

Psychological Warfare

*Then the Rabshakeh said to them, “Say now to Hezekiah, ‘Thus says **the great king, the king of Assyria**: “What confidence is this in which you trust? I say you speak of having plans and power for war; but they are mere words. Now **in whom do you trust**, that you rebel against me? Look! You are ¹trusting 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. But **if you say to me**, ‘²We 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’?” Now therefore, I urge you, give a pledge to my master the king of Assyria, and ³**I will give you two thousand horses – if you are able on your part to put riders on them!** 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?** Have I now come up without the LORD against this land to destroy it? ⁴**The LORD said to me, ‘Go up against this land, and destroy it.’”** (36:4-10)*

Psychological Warfare

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.**” 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?**” 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! Thus says the king: ‘Do not let **Hezekiah deceive you**, for he will not be able to deliver you; 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.”’ 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**; (36:11-16)

Demoralizing Propaganda

*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**. Beware lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, “**The LORD will deliver us.**” Has **any one of the gods of the nations delivered** its land from the hand of the king of Assyria? **Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim?** Indeed, have they **delivered Samaria from my hand**? Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that **the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand**?” (36:17-20)*

- You have no basis for confidence – no one you can trust!
 - Egypt is unreliable, cannot be trusted – no allies (**20:1-6**).
 - Hezekiah made “god” angry by destroying his altars – no god (**2 Chr. 29-31**).
 - We have more horses than you have men – no army.
 - Jehovah sent me to punish you – no right, no hope (**10:5-6**).
- Overlaps with much of God’s correction, but mixed with lies!
- Sennacherib of Assyria misunderstood Jehovah and His true nature ...

“The King in His Beauty”

*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**. 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. 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. 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**.’” So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah. (37:1-5)*

- What prophecy was fulfilled (or admonition heeded) in the events recorded in **37:1-5**?
- Save a remnant (**10:12-24; 28:5**).
- Repent in sackcloth, turn to God for salvation (**9:13; 22:12; 25:9**).

“Cast Your Cares Upon Him”

And Isaiah said to them, “Thus shall you say to your master, **Thus says the LORD**: “Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of **Assyria have blasphemed Me**. Surely I will send a **spirit upon him**, and he shall **hear a rumor** and **return to his own land**; and I will cause him to **fall by the sword in his own land**.”” Then the Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah, for he heard that he had departed from Lachish. And the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, “He has come out to make war with you.” So when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying: **‘Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you**, saying, “Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.” ‘Look! You have heard what the kings of **Assyria have done to all lands** by utterly destroying them; and **shall you be delivered?** Have the **gods of the nations** delivered those whom my fathers have destroyed, **Gozan** and **Haran** and **Rezeph**, and the people of **Eden** who were in Telassar? Where is the **king of Hamath**, the **king of Arpad**, and the king of the city of **Sepharvaim**, **Hena**, and **Ivah?**” (37:6-13)

“For He Cares for You”

*And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went **up to the house of the LORD**, and **spread it before the LORD**. Then Hezekiah **prayed to the LORD**, saying: O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, **You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth.** You have **made heaven and earth**. Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to **reproach the living God**. Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste **all the nations and their lands**, and have cast **their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands** – wood and stone. Therefore they have destroyed them. Now therefore, **O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD, You alone.**” (37:6-20)*

4) What was the primary appeal of Hezekiah's prayer to God (37:6-20)?

How does this relate to the primary theme of the book?

- Recognized God as the **only “living” God and Creator**, not created!
- Looked to Him **alone** for salvation (1Pet. 5:6-7). Finally got the message!
- Asked for help in prayer, just as God instructed thru Solomon (2Chr. 6-7).

“I am God, and not man”

*Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel, **‘Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria,** this is the word which the LORD has spoken concerning him: “The **virgin, the daughter of Zion,** Has **despised you, laughed you to scorn;** The daughter of Jerusalem Has **shaken her head behind your back!** Whom have you **reproached and blasphemed?** Against whom have you raised your voice, And lifted up your eyes on high? **Against the Holy One of Israel.** By your servants you have **reproached the Lord,** And said, ‘By the multitude of **my** chariots **I** have come up to the height of the mountains, To the limits of Lebanon; **I** will cut down its tall cedars And its choice cypress trees; **I** will enter its farthest height, To its fruitful forest. **I** have dug and drunk water, And with the soles of **my** feet **I** have dried up All the brooks of defense.’ Did you not hear **long ago** **How I made it,** From ancient times that **I formed it?** Now **I have brought it to pass,** That **you should be For crushing** fortified cities into heaps of ruins.” (37:21-26)*

An Axe Snatched by the Handle

***Therefore** their inhabitants had **little power**; They were **dismayed** and **confounded**; They were as the grass of the field And the green herb, As the grass on the housetops And grain blighted before it is grown. But **I know your dwelling place**, Your going out and your coming in, And your **rage against Me**. Because your **rage against Me** and your tumult **Have come up to My ears**, **Therefore** I will put **My hook in your nose** And **My bridle in your lips**, And I **will turn you back** By the way which you came.” (37:21-29)*

- 5) What two fundamental, sinful blunders were committed by the king of Assyria, as identified by Jehovah (37:21-29)?
- Assumed that Jehovah was as other defeated idols (**Pro.21:1, 30-31**).
 - Assumed his power originated with him (**10:5-15; Deu. 28:49-67**).
 - “*Virgin, daughter of Zion*” represents a city (**23:12; 47:1; Jer. 14:17; 46:11; Lam. 2:13; Amo. 5:2-3**), dismissing his threats as laughable.
 - He would be treated like a broken beast, as he humiliated his captives (**30:28; Amos 4:1-3; 2 Chr. 33:11; Job 41:1-3**).

“A Sword Not of Man”

*This shall be a **sign** to you: You shall **eat this year** such as **grows of itself**, And the **second** year what **springs from the same**; Also in the **third year sow and reap**, Plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them. And the **remnant who have escaped** of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward, And bear fruit upward. For **out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant**, And those who escape from Mount Zion. **The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this**. Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: ‘He shall **not come into this city**, Nor shoot an arrow there, Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it. **By the way that he came, By the same shall he return**; And he shall not come into this city,’ Says the LORD. For **I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David’s sake**.” 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**. (37:30-36)*

“Deal Treacherously with You”

*So Sennacherib king of Assyria **departed and went away, returned home**, and remained at Nineveh. 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. (37:30-38)*

- 6) What prophecies were fulfilled by the slaughter of Sennacherib's army and his return home (37:30-38)?
- *“Shake his fist at Zion”, but God “lopped off the bough with terror” (10:32-33).*
- *Left behind many corpses for animals to eat and to be burnt (18:3-6; 30:22-33).*
- *Army destroyed by a “sword not of man”, prompting retreat (31:8-9).*
- *Was “plundered” after “ceasing plundering” (33:1, 4).*
- *The “treacherous dealer” was “dealt treacherously” after “making an end of dealing treacherously” (33:1).*

“Twelve Legions of Angels”

- 7) If one angel of Jehovah could kill 185,000 soldiers in one night, what nation or assembly of nations could oppose the Lord (**Matthew 26:53**)?

*Or do you think that I cannot now **pray to My Father**, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? (26:53)*

- Each Roman legion consisted between 5,000-10,000 soldiers.
- 12 legions of angels would be between 60,000-120,000 angels.
- At 185,000 men each, they could easily destroy between 11.1-22.2 billion human soldiers.
- World population is 7.8 billion in 2020.
- Could destroy every person in the world, maybe almost 3 times – ***in one night!***

Carnal calculation, just to illustrate **minimum** of God's power!

- Emphasizes the warning, terror of Jesus returning with ***“His mighty angels in flaming fire taking vengeance” (2 The. 1:6-9).***



HEZEKIAH'S LIFE EXTENDED

Isaiah 38:1-22

“Eyes Fail from Looking Up”

- 8) How did Hezekiah demonstrate his trust in God when Isaiah informed him of his imminent death (**38:1-3, 9-14**)?

*In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Set your house in order, for **you shall die** and not live.’” Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and **prayed to the LORD**, and said, “**Remember** now, O LORD, I pray, how **I have walked** before You **in truth** and **with a loyal heart**, and have done what is **good in Your sight**.” And Hezekiah **wept bitterly**.” (**38:1-3**)*

- a) Believed the message – produced bitter sorrow.
- b) Did not blaspheme, charge God with sin, treachery, etc.
- c) Turned to God in prayer, seeking mercy.
- d) Acknowledged God’s character and desired character by offering his own behavior for inspection.
- e) Like Psalmists, penitent diligence is assumed to be God’s desire, not necessarily sinless perfection (**Psa. 4; 5; 9; 18:17-36 ...**).

“Eyes Fail from Looking Up”

8) How did Hezekiah demonstrate his trust in God when Isaiah informed him of his imminent death (**38:1-3, 9-14**)?

*This is the writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, when he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness: I said, “In the **prime of my life** I shall go to the **gates of Sheol**; I am **deprived of the remainder of my years**.” I said, “I shall **not see YAH, The LORD in the land of the living**; I shall observe man no more among the inhabitants of the world. **My life span is gone**, Taken from me like a shepherd’s tent; I have cut off my life like a weaver. He cuts me off from the loom; **From day until night You make an end of me**. I have considered until morning – Like a lion, So He breaks all my bones; From day until night You make an end of me. Like a crane or a swallow, **so I chattered; I mourned** like a dove; **My eyes fail from looking upward**. **O LORD, I am oppressed; Undertake for me!” (38:9-14)***

• Like Job, “*seeing through a mirror darkly*”, he trusted in God above all else, regardless of any conflict with his circumstances (**Job 19:25**).

“I will defend this city”

- 9) In addition to the extension of his life, what else did Jehovah promise to perform for Hezekiah and Jerusalem (**38:4-8**)?

*And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying, “Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the LORD, **the God of David your father**: “I have **heard your prayer**, I have **seen your tears**; surely I will **add to your days fifteen years**. I will **deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria**, and I will **defend this city**. And **this is the sign to you from the LORD**, that the LORD will do this thing which He has spoken: Behold, I will bring the shadow on the sundial, which has gone down with the sun on the sundial of Ahaz, **ten degrees backward**.” So the **sun returned ten degrees on the dial by which it had gone down**. (38:4-8)*

- In addition to extending his life by 15 years, God promised to not let Hezekiah or the city fall into Assyrian control (**2 Chr. 32:23-30**).
- Reference to David provides additional motivation, but may allude to their to fulfill promise (**2 Sam. 7:12-16; 2Kgs.20:6; 2 Chr. 33:1**).

“Bitterness for my own peace”

10) What additional blessing did the Lord provide for Hezekiah himself (38:15-20)? What lessons can we learn from Hezekiah’s response (38:21-22)?

*What shall I say? He has **both spoken to me, And He Himself has done it.** I shall **walk carefully all my years** In the bitterness of my soul. O Lord, **by these things men live; And in all these things is the life of my spirit;** So You will **restore me and make me live.** Indeed it was for my own peace That I had great bitterness; But You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back. For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your truth. The living, the living man, he shall praise You, As I do this day; The **father shall make known Your truth to the children.** “The LORD was ready to save me; Therefore we will sing my songs with stringed instruments **All the days of our life, in the house of the LORD.**” (38:15-20)*

Real discipline to spiritual salvation (Ps.119:67-75; Hb.12:1-13).

An Unanswered Question

*Now Isaiah had said, “Let them take a **lump of figs, and apply it as a poultice on the boil, and he shall recover.**” And Hezekiah had said, “**What is the sign** that I shall go up to the house of the LORD?” (38:15-22)*

- Explains why a sign was provided previously.
- Emphasizes Hezekiah’s prayer by “hurrying” to it.
- But, it also leaves an unanswered question ... Why did Hezekiah need a sign, given all the mighty works already done for him by Him?



BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY FORETOLD

Isaiah 39:1-8