

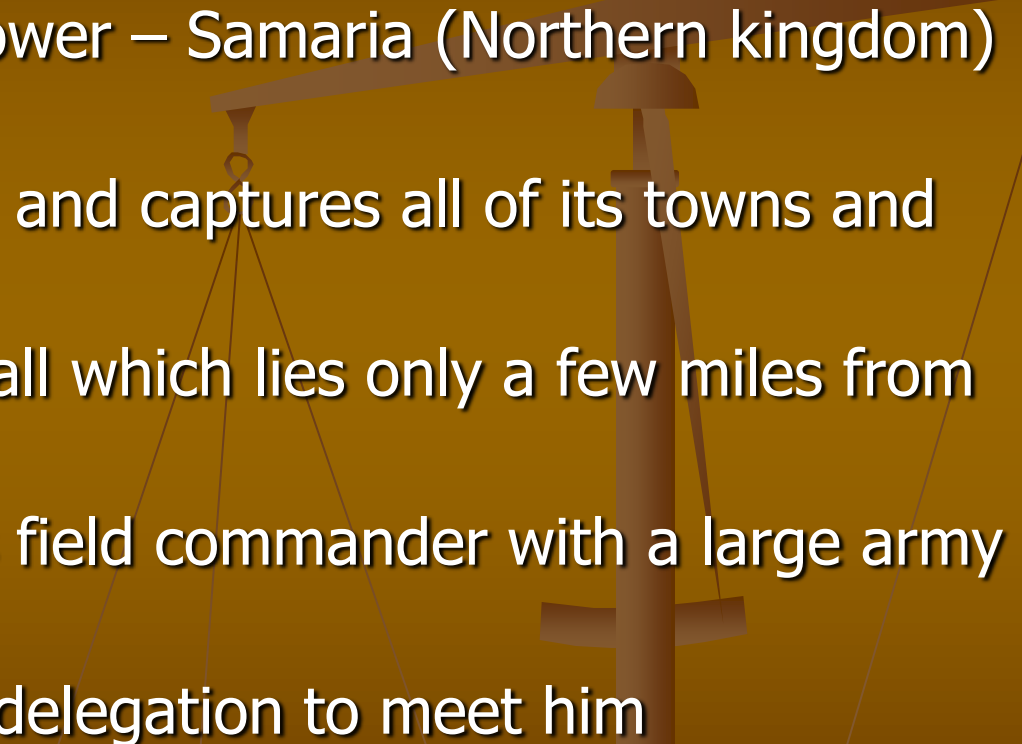
Hezekiah

Background

1. 1st month as king he repaired the temple and consecrated the priests
2. Destroyed all the altars and false gods as well as the high places
3. Called the people of Judah and Israel to repentance
4. Re-established the Passover and worship at the temple in Jerusalem
5. 2 Kings 18... ⁵ Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. ⁶ He held fast to the LORD and did not cease to follow him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses.

Hezekiah

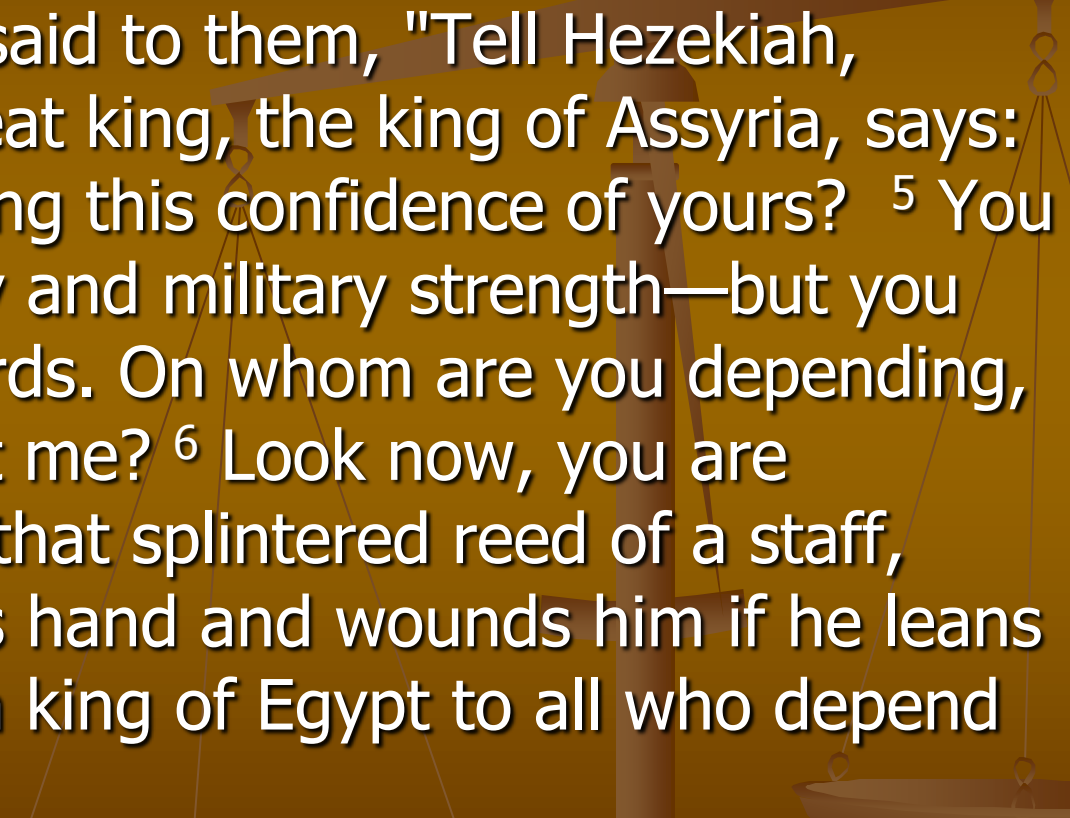
Background

6. Assyria is the world power – Samaria (Northern kingdom) has fallen
 7. Assyria turns to Judah and captures all of its towns and cities
 8. Lachish is the last to fall which lies only a few miles from Jerusalem
 9. Sennacherib sends his field commander with a large army to Jerusalem
 10. Hezekiah sends out a delegation to meet him
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Hezekiah

Isaiah 36

⁴ 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? ⁵ You
say you have strategy and military strength—but you
speak only empty words. On whom are you depending,
that you rebel against me? ⁶ Look now, you are
depending on Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff,
which pierces a man's hand and wounds him if he leans
on it! Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who depend
on him.



Hezekiah

⁷ And 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"? ⁸ " '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! ⁹ 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? ¹⁰ 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.' "

Hezekiah

- ¹¹ 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."
- ¹² 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 men sitting on the wall—who, like you, will have to eat their own filth and drink their own urine?"
- ¹³ Then the commander stood and called out in Hebrew, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! ¹⁴ This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you. He cannot deliver you!

Hezekiah

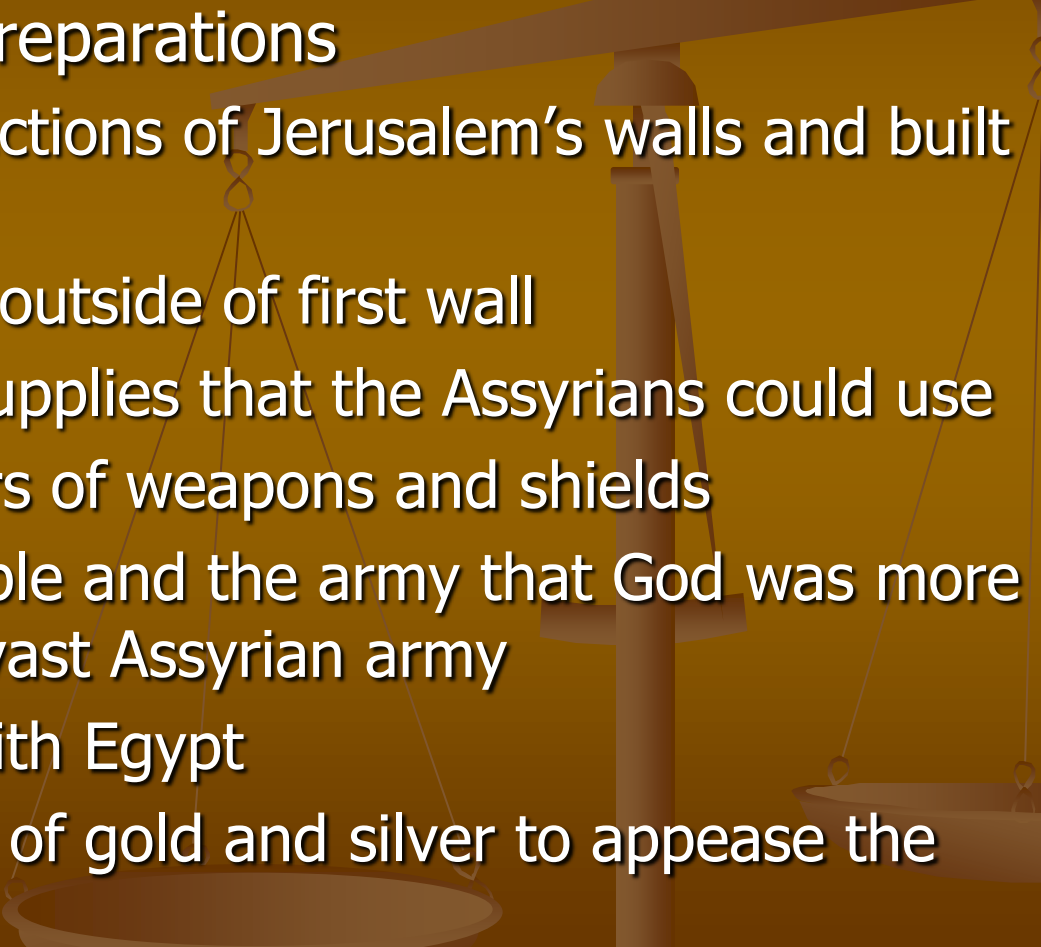
- ¹⁵ Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the LORD when he says, 'The LORD will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'
- ¹⁶ "Do not listen to Hezekiah. This is what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me and come out to me. Then every one of you will eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern, ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸
- "Do not let Hezekiah mislead you when he says, 'The LORD will deliver us.' Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria?

Hezekiah

¹⁹ Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand? ²⁰ Who of all the gods of these countries has been able to save his land from me? How then can the LORD deliver Jerusalem from my hand?" ²¹ But the people remained silent and said nothing in reply, because the king had commanded, "Do not answer him." ²² 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.

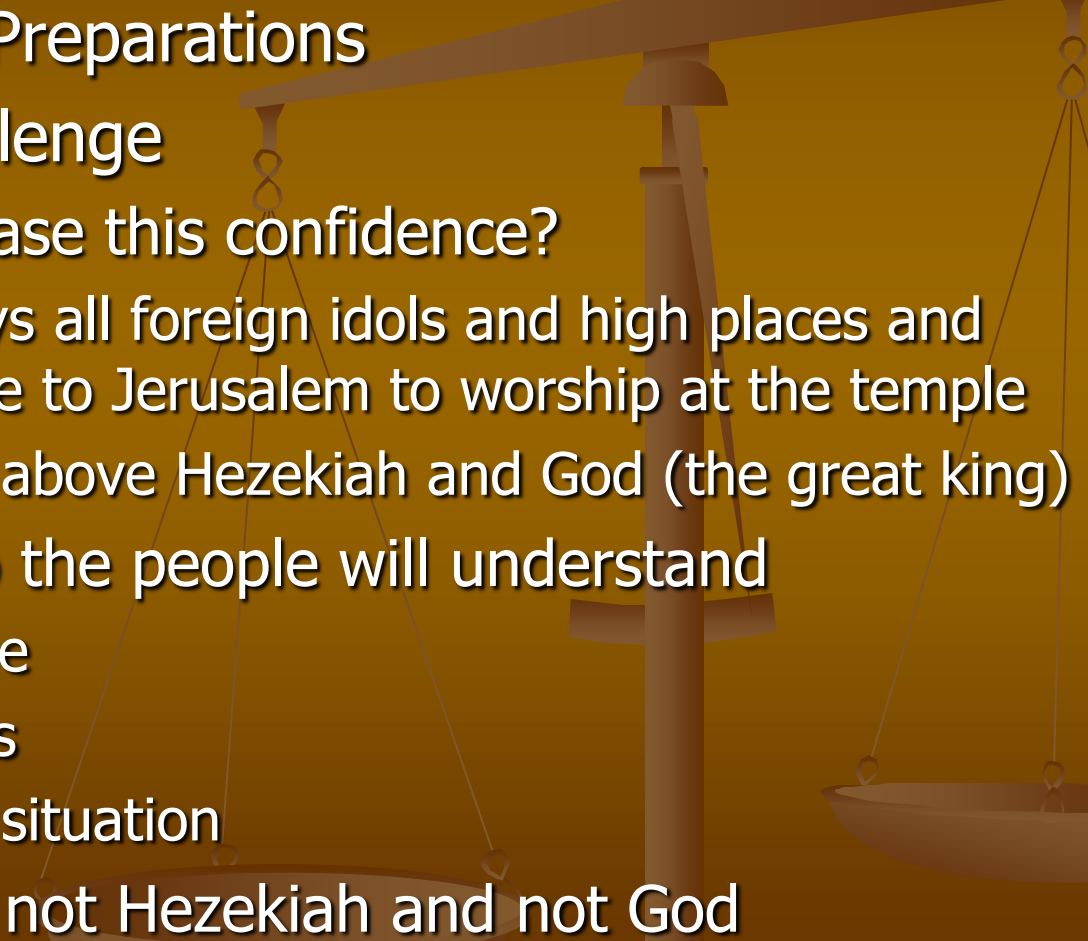
Hezekiah

Assyria Approaches

1. Hezekiah's Military Preparations
 - a. Repaired broken sections of Jerusalem's walls and built towers
 - b. Built a second wall outside of first wall
 - c. Blocked all water supplies that the Assyrians could use
 - d. Made large numbers of weapons and shields
 - e. Reassured the people and the army that God was more powerful than the vast Assyrian army
 - f. Made an alliance with Egypt
 - g. Sent a massive gift of gold and silver to appease the Assyrians
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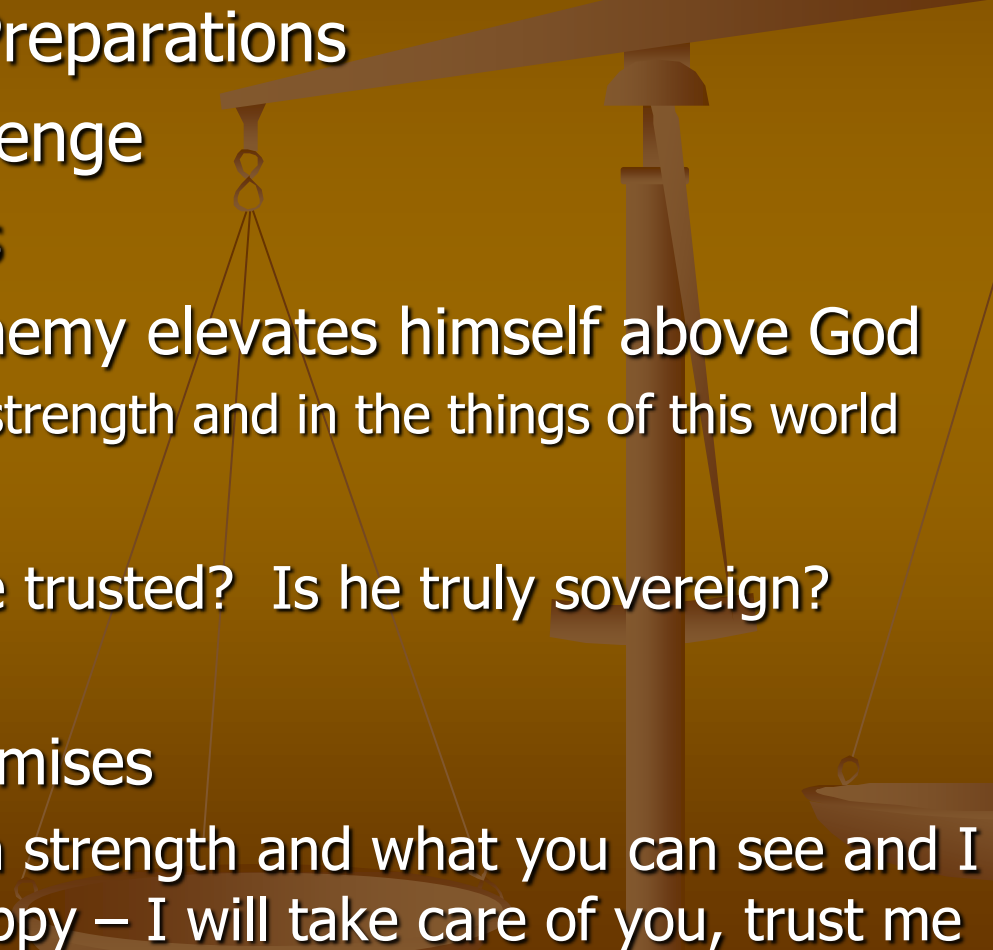
Hezekiah

Assyria Approaches

1. Hezekiah's Military Preparations
 2. Sennacherib's Challenge
 - a. On what do you base this confidence?
 - i. Hezekiah destroys all foreign idols and high places and invites the people to Jerusalem to worship at the temple
 - ii. Elevates himself above Hezekiah and God (the great king)
 - b. Speaks Hebrew so the people will understand
 - i. Horrors of a siege
 - ii. Men with families
 - iii. Hopelessness of situation
 - c. You can trust me, not Hezekiah and not God
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Hezekiah

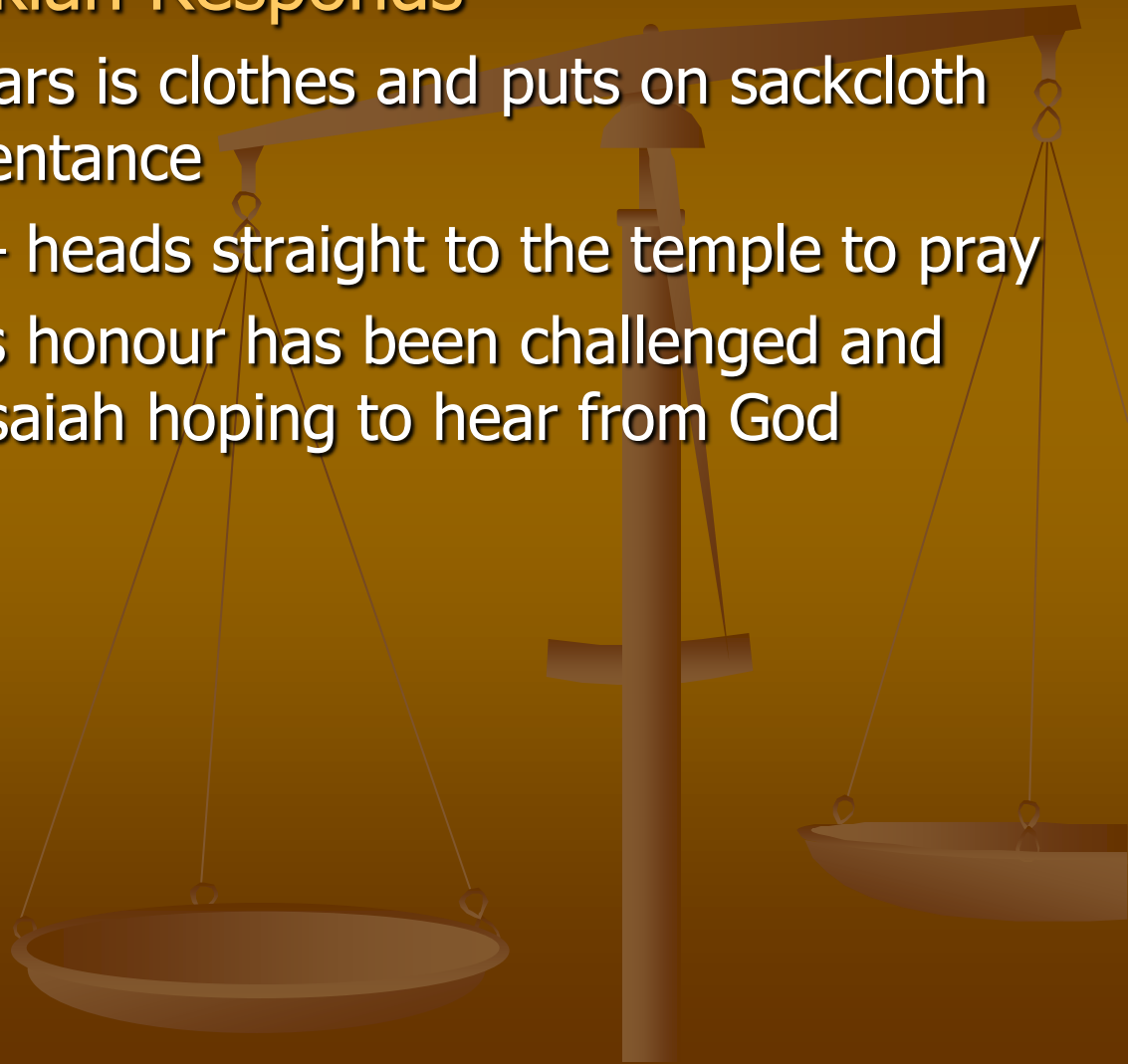
Assyria Approaches

1. Hezekiah's Military Preparations
 2. Sennacherib's Challenge
 3. Our Enemies Tactics
 - a. Arrogance – our enemy elevates himself above God
 - i. Trust in your own strength and in the things of this world
 - b. Doubt & Despair
 - i. Can God really be trusted? Is he truly sovereign?
 - ii. There is no hope
 - c. Deceit - Empty promises
 - i. Trust in your own strength and what you can see and I will make you happy – I will take care of you, trust me
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Hezekiah

Isaiah 37 – King Hezekiah Responds

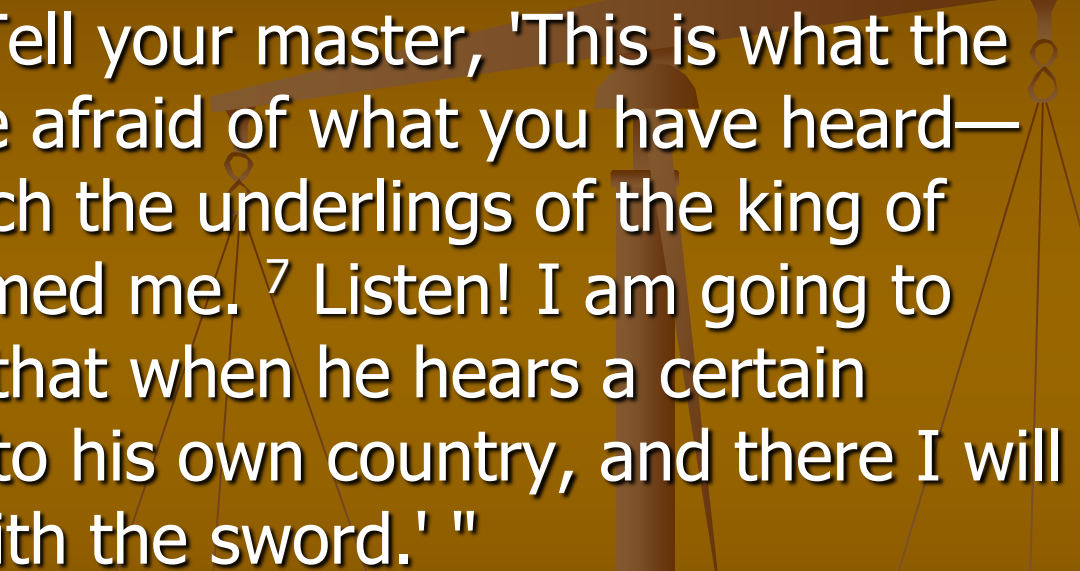
1. Humbles himself – Tears his clothes and puts on sackcloth which is a sign of repentance
2. Goes directly to God – heads straight to the temple to pray
3. Is offended that God's honour has been challenged and sends a message to Isaiah hoping to hear from God



Hezekiah

Isaiah 37 – God Responds

⁶ 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. ⁷ Listen! I am going to put a spirit in him so that when he hears a certain report, he will return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword.' "



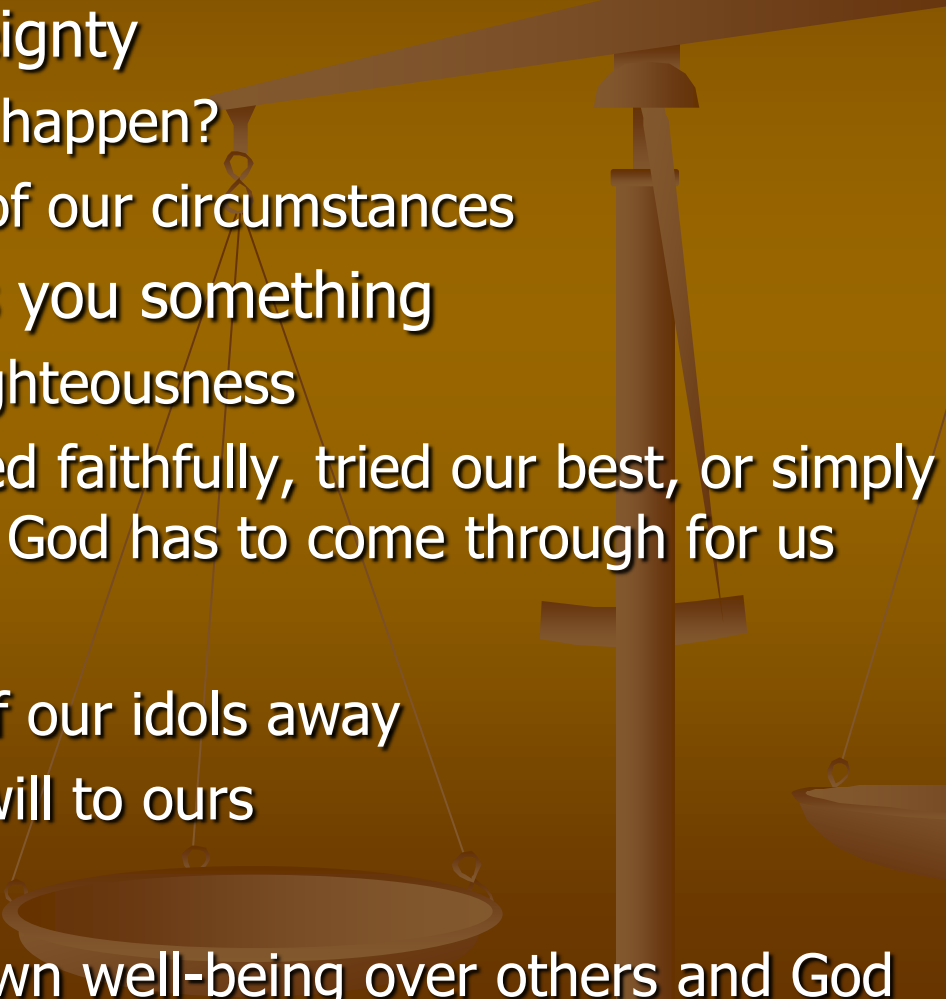
Hezekiah

Isaiah 37 – Sennacherib Sends a Letter

1. Defies God by placing him as just another god of a nation that he (Sennacherib) will soon overpower – just like all of the gods of the other nations he destroyed
2. Hezekiah again responds by going to the temple and spreads the letter out before God
3. Hezekiah prays that God will deliver Jerusalem so that all the kingdoms of the earth will know that there is no other God but the God of Israel
 - a. Hezekiah's appeal is not based on his own righteousness but on the basis of who God is
 - b. Hezekiah did not try and persuade God that he owed them something because the whole nation had turned back to God

Hezekiah

Responding to adversity – Pride or Humility

1. Question God's sovereignty
 - a. How can you let this happen?
 - b. Doubt God because of our circumstances
 2. Believe that God owes you something
 - a. Based on our own righteousness
 - b. Because we have lived faithfully, tried our best, or simply somehow deserve it, God has to come through for us
 3. Anger towards God
 - a. God has taken one of our idols away
 - b. God won't bend his will to ours
 4. Selfishness
 - a. Blame-shifting, my own well-being over others and God
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Hezekiah

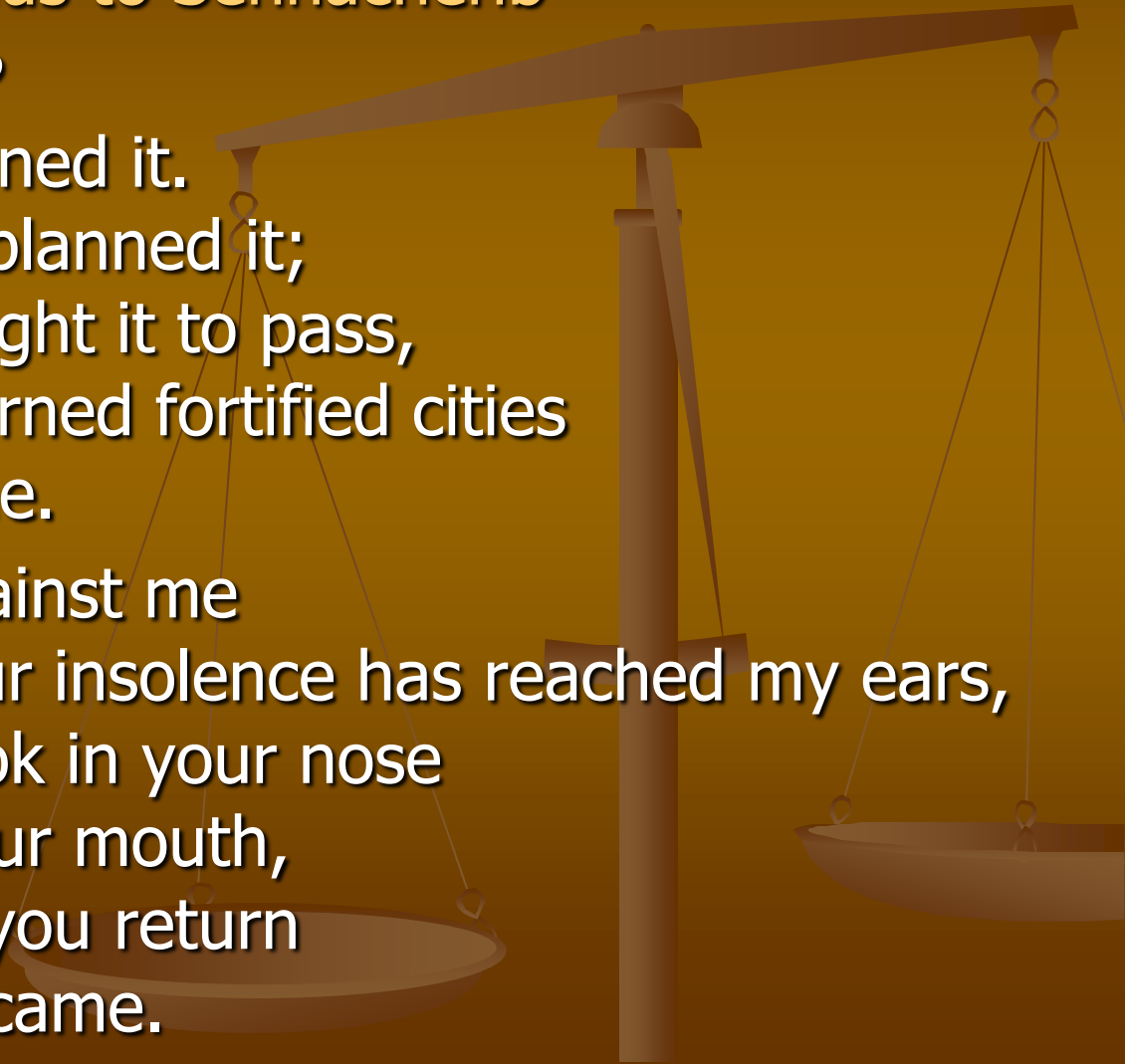
Isaiah 37 – God Responds to Sennacherib

²⁶ "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.

²⁹ 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.



Hezekiah

Isaiah 37 – God Reassures Hezekiah

³³ "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.

³⁴ By the way that he came he will return;
he will not enter this city,"
declares the LORD.

³⁵ "I will defend this city and save it,
for my sake and for the sake of David my servant!"

Hezekiah

Isaiah 37 – Promise Fulfilled

³⁶ Then the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! ³⁷ So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.

³⁸ One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer cut him down with the sword, and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son succeeded him as king.

Hezekiah

How do you respond to adversity?

1. Do you go to God first?
2. Do you respond in humility and repentance ready to accept what God has for you?
3. Do you listen to the lies of the enemy and fall prey to his tactics?
4. Who do you trust?

