

Sermon Study Questions

Sunday, April 19, 2026

1. Read Isaiah 37:8-38

2. In the opening verses of ch.37 we saw that Hezekiah has now run out of options in trying to deal with the Assyrian threat as both man (the Egyptians) and money (300 talents of silver, 30 talents of gold) have failed to deliver him and now he has turned to the Lord (v.1-2, tearing his clothes, putting on sackcloth, entering the temple, summoning the prophet Isaiah). But as we pick up in v.8-9 we see that Sennacherib comes with a new wave of threats. What do you learn from this about the life and fight of faith? What can you do to prepare yourself for it?

3. Hezekiah's response to this new wave of threats is to pray. There is one overarching concern that marks his prayer, that God would be glorified. Where do you see this in the text? What do you learn from this about how we should prioritize our lives and the impact of either rightly or wrongly prioritizing self over God?

4. Beginning in v.21 we see the Lord's response to Hezekiah's prayer. The first thing we learn from His response is that prayer makes a difference. Where do you see this in the text? Do you really believe prayer makes a difference? Does the reality that God is sovereign over all and works all things according to the counsel of His will (Eph.1:11) negatively impact your prayer life? If so, should it? What can you do to improve your prayer life?

5. We also learn from the Lord's response that He will not be mocked. Why does the Lord seemingly allow unbelievers to mock Him, as He not only doesn't strike them down, but He even allows them to materially prosper?

6. The third thing we learn from the Lord's response to Hezekiah is that He is sovereign over history. This is something He has exhaustively shown us throughout Isaiah, especially in the oracles against the nations in ch.13-24. Likewise, v.28-29 make it clear that He is also

sovereignly directed the rulers of nations (see Prov.21:1). Do you believe this is still the case, or do you believe that God's sovereign control over the nations and the rulers of nations (i.e. President Trump, Vladimir Putin, and Xi Jinping to name a few) is no longer the case? If you believe He is still sovereign over all, how does this and should this impact you and your mindset amidst the current events today?

7. The fourth and final thing we learn from the Lord's response to Hezekiah's prayer is that He will preserve His church, i.e. the remnant (v.30-35, esp.v.31-32). The preservation of the remnant has also been a steady theme in Isaiah. Why is it so important for God to reassure His people under the Old Covenant of this truth? Where do we see this truth expressed to us by Christ Himself? How do we see this truth played out since the time of Christ?

8. In v.36-39 we see the Lord act in history by destroying the Assyrian military camped outside the walls of Jerusalem, and then years later in the assassination of Sennacherib. Where do you see the irony in Sennacherib's death? How does this closing scene demonstrate the one main, overarching theme of Isaiah in general and this narrative in particular, that God alone saves?

9. What practical application can you make from this text/sermon?

10. Pray!

Reading of Law: Mark 14:38

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Prayer of Confession:

Our Father in heaven, you are worthy of all praise, honor, and glory. Lord you assure that you are a God who hears and answers prayer, and yet in spite of that we confess that we fail to pray as we ought to. We confess that we are often lazy in prayer and do not prioritize prayer the

way you call us to. We fail to pray for who and what you tell us to pray for and we give up far too easily in prayer when we do not see the answer coming. Moreover, we are often careless in the way we watch out for temptation. We confess that we underestimate how subtle the Tempter is and how many avenues through which we can be tempted. We likewise overestimate our own ability to resist temptation, thinking that our flesh is stronger than it is. In all of this we leave ourselves open to temptation and the danger of sinning against you. Father, please forgive us. Please have mercy on us and help us to watch and pray that we may not enter into temptation. For our desire is to live in a way that is honorable and fitting for us who bear the name of Christ in the name Christian. We thank you that when we do stumble and give in to temptation that we are forgiven, for Christ has died for us for that very reason, that our sins may be cast away from us as far as the east is from the west. It is in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Assurance of Pardon: Acts 10:43

To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 33

Q.88. In how many things does true repentance or conversion consist?

A. In two things: the dying of the old man, and the making alive of the new.

[1] [Rom. 6:4–6](#); [Eph. 4:22–24](#); [Col. 3:5–10](#); [1 Cor. 5:7](#).

Q89. What is the dying of the old man?

A. Heartfelt sorrow for sin, causing us to hate and turn from it always more and more.

[1] [Rom. 8:13](#); [Joel 2:13](#).

Q.90. What is the making alive of the new man?

A. Heartfelt joy in God through Christ, causing us to take delight in living according to the will of God in all good works.

[1] [Rom. 5:1](#); [14:17](#); [Isa. 57:15](#). [2] [Rom. 8:10–11](#); [Gal. 2:20](#); *[Rom. 7:22](#).

Q.91. What are good works?

A. Those only which proceed from true faith, and are done according to the law of God, unto His glory, and not such as rest on our own opinion or the commandments of men.

[1] [Rom. 14:23](#). [2] [1 Sam. 15:22](#); [Eph. 2:10](#). [3] [1 Cor. 10:31](#). [4] [Deut. 12:32](#); [Ezek. 20:18, 20](#); [Isa. 29:13](#). [5] [Matt. 15:9](#); *[Num. 15:39](#).

NT Reading: Acts 4:23-31

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵ who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed"-- ²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.