

Appendix: The Complete Text of Isaiah 36:1-37:38

36 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. ²Then the king of Assyria sent his field commander with a large army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. When *the commander* stopped at the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field, ³Eliakim son of Hilkiah, the palace administrator, Shebna, the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the recorder, went out to *meet* him. ⁴The field commander said to them, Tell Hezekiah, This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says, In what do you place your confidence? ⁵I say that your counsel and your *claim to have* strength to wage war are only empty words. Now on whom are you depending, so that you *are so bold as to rebel* against me? ⁶Listen. You are depending on a staff *that is nothing more than* a splintered reed; *namely, the nation of* Egypt. If a man leans *upon that staff*, it will pierce his hand and wound him—such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who depend on him. ⁷But if you tell me, We are trusting in Jehovah our God. *I ask you*, Is not he the *god* whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, *commanding* Judah and Jerusalem, “You must *only* worship before this altar *in Jerusalem?*” ⁸Now therefore, make a deal with my master, the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses—if you can supply riders for them. ⁹How can you repel *even so much as* one officer of the least of my master's *commanders*, even though you are depending on Egypt for chariots and horsemen? ¹⁰Furthermore, have I come to attack and destroy this land without *the help of* Jehovah? Jehovah commanded me, Attack this land and destroy it.

¹¹Then Eliakim, Shebna and Joah said to the field commander, Please speak to your servants in the Syrian language, for we understand it. Do not speak to us in the language of the Jews in the hearing of the people *who are sitting* on top of the wall. ¹²But the commander replied, Did my master *only* send me to your master and to you with this message? *Has he not also sent me* to the men who are sitting on top of the wall—who, together with you, *will be forced* to eat their own dung and drink their own urine? ¹³Then the commander stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of the Jews, Pay attention to the words of the great

king, the king of Assyria! ¹⁴This is what the king says, Do not let Hezekiah deceive you; for he will not be able to deliver you. ¹⁵And do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in Jehovah by telling *you*, Jehovah will certainly deliver us; this city will not be handed over to the king of Assyria. ¹⁶Do not listen to Hezekiah; for this is what the king of Assyria says, Make peace with me and *surrender* to me. Let everyone *of you* eat from his own vine and from his own fig tree and let everyone drink water from his own cistern; ¹⁷until 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. ¹⁸Beware that you do not let Hezekiah mislead you by saying, Jehovah will deliver us. Has any god of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? ¹⁹Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand? ²⁰Which one of all the gods of these countries has been able to save his land from me? How then can Jehovah rescue Jerusalem from my hand? ²¹But *the people* remained silent, they said nothing in reply; for the king had given the commandment, Do not answer him. ²²Then Eliakim son of Hilkiyah, the palace administrator, Shebna, the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the recorder, went to Hezekiah, with their clothes torn, and reported to him what the field commander had said.

37 When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the *temple* of Jehovah. ²He sent Eliakim, the palace administrator, Shebna, the secretary, and the leading priests, all wearing sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. ³And they said to him, This is what Hezekiah says, This is a day of distress and rebuke and disgrace; it is like infants coming to the point of birth, but there is no strength to deliver them. ⁴Perhaps Jehovah your God will take note of the words of the *Assyrian* field commander, whom his master, the king of Assyria, has sent to defy the living God, and that he will rebuke *him* for the words that Jehovah your God has heard. Therefore, lift up your prayer for the remnant *of Judah* that is *still* left. ⁵When King Hezekiah's *officials* came to Isaiah, ⁶Isaiah said to them, This is what you shall report *back* to your master, This is what Jehovah says, Do not be afraid of the words you have heard, *the words* with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. ⁷Listen! I am going to

put a spirit into him that will cause him, when he hears a certain report, to return to his own country. Furthermore, I will cause him to be killed with the sword in his own country.

⁸When the field commander heard that the king of Assyria had left Lachish, he departed *from Jerusalem* and found the king fighting against Libnah. ⁹Now *Sennacherib* had received a report concerning Tirhakah, king of Ethiopia. He was told, He has come out to fight against you. When he heard this report, *Sennacherib* sent messengers to Hezekiah, instructing them, ¹⁰Tell Hezekiah king of Judah, Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by saying, Jerusalem shall not be handed over to the king of Assyria. ¹¹Listen; you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all *the other* countries, how they utterly destroyed them. *Do you think* you shall be delivered? ¹²Did the gods of those nations that were destroyed by my forefathers deliver *their people—the people of* Gozan and Haran and Rezeph, as well as the *people of* Eden who *lived in* Telassar? ¹³Where is the king of Hamath, or the king of Arpad, or the king of the city of Sepharvaim, *or those of* Hena and Ivvah? ¹⁴Hezekiah received the letter delivered by the messengers and he read it. Then Hezekiah went up to the *temple of* Jehovah and spread out *the scroll* in the presence of Jehovah. ¹⁵Hezekiah prayed to Jehovah, saying, ¹⁶O Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel, *you* who are enthroned *between* the cherubim; you, and you alone, are the God over all the kingdoms of the earth—you have made heaven and earth. ¹⁷Incline your ear, O Jehovah, and hear; open your eyes, O Jehovah, and observe. Listen to all the words of Sennacherib who has sent *his servants* to defy the living God. ¹⁸It is certainly true, Jehovah, that the kings of Assyria have devastated all those *nations* and their lands, ¹⁹and they have thrown their gods into the fire; because they were no gods *at all, they were only* the work of men's hands, *made of* wood and stone, that is why *the Assyrians were able to* destroy them. ²⁰Now therefore, O Jehovah our God, deliver us out of his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, O Jehovah, are *God*.

²¹Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent *a message* to Hezekiah, saying, This is what Jehovah, the God of Israel, says, Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib, king of Assyria, ²²this is the word that Jehovah has spoken against him: The virgin daughter of Israel despises you and

laughs at you. The daughter of Jerusalem *haughtily* tosses her head as you *flee*. ²³Whom have you defied and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride? *You have done so* against the Holy One of Israel! ²⁴Through your servants you have defied the Lord by saying, With the multitude of my chariots I have ascended the heights of the mountains—the utmost *heights* of Lebanon! I will cut down its tallest cedars and the choicest of its pines! I will reach its highest peak, its thickest forest! ²⁵I have dug *wells in foreign lands* and drunk the water *there*; and with the soles of my feet I have dried up all the rivers of Egypt! ²⁶Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained this; from ancient times I planned this. Now I have caused it to be accomplished; *namely*, that you should turn fortified cities into heaps of stones. ²⁷That is why their inhabitants had little strength—they were dismayed and put to shame. They were like the grass of the field and like the tender green shoots—like grass *sprouting* on the rooftop that is scorched before it grows up. ²⁸But I know where you are *encamped*, and *I know* your goings and *your* comings, and *I know about* your raging against me. ²⁹Because of your raging against me and because your arrogance has reached my ears, therefore I am going to put my hook into your nose and *my* bit into your mouth, and I will make you return by the way you came. ³⁰This will be the sign for you, *O Hezekiah*: This year you will eat that which grows by itself, and the second year *you will eat* what springs up from that *seed*. But in the third year you will sow *your fields* and reap *the harvest*, *you will plant vineyards* and eat their fruit. ³¹The remnant of the house of Judah that survives shall once again take root downward and bear fruit upward; ³²because a remnant will go forth out of Jerusalem, and *a band of* survivors will *go forth* out of Mount Zion. The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will accomplish this. ³³Therefore, this is what Jehovah says about the king of Assyria, He will not enter this city, nor will he shoot an arrow *at it*. He will not come against it with a shield, nor will he build a siege ramp against it. ³⁴By the same way that he came he will return; he will not enter this city, declares Jehovah, ³⁵because I will defend this city in order to save it, for my own sake and for my servant David's sake. ³⁶Then the angel of Jehovah went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When *the Assyrians* got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! ³⁷So Sennacherib

king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew *from Jerusalem*. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there. ³⁸*One day*, as he was worshipping in the *temple* of Nisroch his god, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer assassinated him with the sword; then they escaped to the land of Ararat. Esarhadon his son succeeded him as king.