

Fact Sheet for **“An Antidote for Fear”**  
**Isaiah 37:21-38**

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Fear of what may happen can frustrate us, depress us, incite us to anger, paralyze us, rob us of sleep, etc. When we descend into fear we progressively forget Who God is and what He has promised.

There are great stories in Scripture that instruct, inspire, and comfort. This story in Isaiah takes its place among them. It is a story that can encourage you in your times of deepest fear. It is a story that reminds you that God is in control. It is He that protects you.

There are parallels in 2 Kings 19:20-37 and 2 Chronicles 32:20-23.

The Rabshakeh has threatened Jerusalem. Sennacherib has threatened Jerusalem. Hezekiah is brought to his last hope... God. He brings Sennacherib's message to the Temple, lays it out before the Lord, and prays.

***Read Isaiah 37:21-22.***

The NIV has a very good rendering of verse 22.

<sup>NIV</sup> **Isaiah 37:22** this is the word the LORD has spoken against him: "Virgin Daughter Zion despises and mocks you. Daughter Jerusalem tosses her head as you flee.

***Read Isaiah 37:23-25.***

Sennacherib mocked the true God of the Bible. He boasted that He and his might brought him victory over the nations. His words were framed to incite great fear in Hezekiah, and they hit their mark! But, God had a different perspective...

***Read Isaiah 37:26-27.***

God, in His great plan for the world and For His people, was the one who gave Sennacherib military victory over the nations.

A later ruler of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, would have to learn this lesson Daniel 4:24-25).

***Read Isaiah 37:28-29.***

“sitting down... doing out... coming in...” – There is a passage with similar wording for God's people... Deuteronomy 6:6-7.

“hook in your nose” – This was fitting because the Assyrians were known for leading their captives by hooks in their noses.<sup>1</sup>

Remember also God’s first words to Hezekiah concerning the King of Assyria (Isaiah 37:6-7).

***Read Isaiah 37:30-32.***

The first two years would be difficult, but by the third year things would be back to normal.

***Read Isaiah 37:33-35.***

Remember the Rabshakeh’s words (Isaiah 36:8). Remember also that the Assyrian army vastly outnumbered God’s people that day. God was about to do something dramatic that very night (2 Kings 19:35)!

***Read Isaiah 37:36-38 and 2 Chronicles 32:21.***

God precipitated a major victory for His people!

We will always experience things that are a possible cause of fear. Some of those will be small, some large. But, remember... God is always in control. That may be hard to accept at times, but it is still true. God always has a plan. We just may find out what it is a little later than we like.

This is one of those very memorable stories in the Bible to keep in your arsenal to deal with life. It is an antidote for fear!

## *Epilogue*

But, there the seeds of a future problem were sown.

**ESV 2 Chronicles 32:23** And many brought gifts to the LORD to Jerusalem and precious things to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations from that time onward.

This will lead into the sermon for next week.

Caution: Always be on the alert! Fame can get you.

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<sup>1</sup> The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament, p. 1088.