

Salvation Belongs to the Lord *Isaiah 36-39*

I. Introduction

This is the central section of Isaiah, the pivot point in the prophecy. This “historical” section is the culmination of the prophet’s warnings about Assyria, and point to the need for Judah to put her trust in Yahweh alone for salvation. She does this, most especially in the person of her King, Hezekiah. Following deliverance from the Assyrian invaders, Hezekiah is visited by envoys from Babylon. This occasions Isaiah’s commencement of prophecies concerning the coming captivity of Judah in Babylon, as well as their ultimate restoration.

This section, like all the major divisions in Isaiah, is arranged in a chiastic fashion, in seven sections, as follows:

- A. Arrival of the Assyrian Invaders/Messengers: Isaiah 36
 - B. Hezekiah Cries to God for Help in His Distress: Isaiah 37:1-7
 - King Hears the Evil Tidings
 - King Appeals to Isaiah to Pray
 - Isaiah Sends a Word of Promise
 - C. The Enemy’s Blasphemous Blast: Isaiah 37:8-13 (Yahweh cannot save!)
 - D. *The King’s Prayer for Deliverance: Isaiah 37:14-20 (Save us O Lord...)***
 - C. The Enemy’s Blasphemy Blasted by Yahweh: Isaiah 37:21-38
 - B. Hezekiah Cries to God for Healing in His Sickness: Isaiah 38:1-22
 - King Hears the Sad Tidings
 - King appeals to the Lord in Prayer
 - Isaiah Sends a Word of Promise
- A. Arrival of the Babylonian Emissaries: Isaiah 39:1-8

II. The Backdrop of Renewing the Kingdom – 2 Chronicles 29-31

- A. Cleansing the Temple: 29:1-19
- B. Restoring Worship: 29:20-36
- C. Recovering Passover: 30:1-27
 - The Re-unification of the Nation
- D. Re-establishment of the Priesthood: 31:1ff

And what is the outcome? Renewal in the land and a response from hell!

III. The Enemy's Threat and Strategy – Isaiah 36

- A. Intimidation
- B. Truth
- C. Lies
 - 1. About Hezekiah's work
 - 2. About their commission
- D. Compromise
- E. Blasphemy

IV. The Place of Prophetic Intercession – Isaiah 37:1 ff

- A. Recall the first calling of the Prophet – Genesis 20:7
- B. The Word of Promise
- C. Acting on that word of promise through humility, fasting, and prayer
 - The purpose of answered prayer – Isaiah 37:20
 - ***This is the center of the book. God will reveal himself to the world as the God who saves.***

V. God's Saving Power: Isaiah 37:21-38

VI. The Song of Salvation: Isaiah 38

- A. Hezekiah's Sickness and Deliverance – 38:1-8
- B. Hezekiah's Song of Praise for Salvation – 38:9ff

VII. The Babylonian Captivity Foreseen – Isaiah 39:1-8 (2 Chronicles 36:11-21)