

# a letter from **HELL**

5.26.19

**Isaiah 37:14-15 NIV** Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD

**Central Truth:** God seeks to establish victory first on the inside of us. This means outside circumstances may last longer than expected as we learn to live by faith and not by sight.

## 1. **The Battle Plan of Satan** (Isaiah 36)

- A. He tells you there are no solutions; that even God is not enough (36:4-9).
- B. He tells you that he is the tool of the LORD; you are getting what God says you deserve (36:10).
- C. He seeks to destroy the faith of those around you; creating an atmosphere of doubt and fear (36:11-15).
- D. He seeks to "make a deal" with you (36:16-17).
- E. He flaunts his war record by pointing out others who have fallen (36:18).

## 2. **The Battle Plan of The LORD** (Isaiah 37)

- A. Do not enter into dialogue with the devil (36:21).
- B. Humble yourself in the sight of The LORD (36:22).
- C. Turn to the Word of God (37:1-4).
- D. Receive The LORD'S encouragement (37:5-7). We must learn to receive the Word of The Lord in our spirit, not just our intellect.
- E. Expect a counter attack (37:8-13).

F. Spread the matter out before The LORD and PRAY! (37:14-20)

G. Let God take up your cause (37:21, 22-38). The result is seen in verses 33-35!

**Isaiah 36:1-21 NASB** Now in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and seized them. <sup>2</sup> And the king of Assyria sent Rabshakeh from Lachish to Jerusalem to King Hezekiah with a large army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway of the fuller's field. <sup>3</sup> Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to him. <sup>4</sup> Then Rabshakeh said to them, "Say now to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria, "What is this confidence that you have? <sup>5</sup> I say, 'Your counsel and strength for the war are only empty words.' Now on whom do you rely, that you have rebelled against me? <sup>6</sup> Behold, you rely on the staff of this crushed reed, *even* on Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who rely on him. <sup>7</sup> But if you say to me, 'We trust in the Lord our God,' is it not He whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away and has said to Judah and to Jerusalem, 'You shall worship before this altar'? <sup>8</sup> Now therefore, come make a bargain with my master the king of Assyria, and I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them. <sup>9</sup> How then can you repulse one official of the least of my master's servants and rely on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? <sup>10</sup> Have I now come up without the Lord's approval against this land to destroy it? The Lord said to me, 'Go up against this land and destroy it.'" <sup>11</sup> Then Eliakim and Shebna and Joah said to Rabshakeh, "Speak now to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand *it*, and do not speak with us in Judean in the hearing of the people who are on the wall." <sup>12</sup> But Rabshakeh said, "Has my master sent me only to your master and to you to speak these words, *and* not to the men who sit on the wall, *doomed* to eat their own dung and drink their own urine with you?" <sup>13</sup> Then Rabshakeh stood and cried with a loud voice in Judean and said, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria. <sup>14</sup> Thus says the king, 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you; <sup>15</sup> nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying, "The Lord will surely deliver us, this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'" <sup>16</sup> Do not listen to Hezekiah,' for thus says the king of Assyria, 'Make your peace with me and come out to me, and eat each of his vine and each of his fig tree and drink each of the waters of his own cistern, <sup>17</sup> until 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. <sup>18</sup> *Beware* that Hezekiah does not mislead you, saying, "The Lord will deliver us." Has any one of the gods of the nations delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria? <sup>19</sup> Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? And when have they delivered Samaria from my hand? <sup>20</sup> Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their land from my hand, that the Lord would deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"' <sup>21</sup> But they were silent and answered him not a word; for the king's commandment was, "Do not answer him." <sup>22</sup> Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn and told him the words of Rabshakeh.

**Isaiah 37:1-20 NASB** And when King Hezekiah heard *it*, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth and entered the house of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> Then he sent Eliakim who was over the household with Shebna the scribe and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz. <sup>3</sup> They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, 'This day is a day of distress, rebuke and rejection; for children have come to birth, and there is no strength to deliver. <sup>4</sup> Perhaps the Lord your God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of

Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the Lord your God has heard. Therefore, offer a prayer for the remnant that is left.”<sup>5</sup> So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah.<sup>6</sup> Isaiah said to them, “Thus you shall say to your master, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.<sup>7</sup> Behold, I will put a spirit in him so that he will hear a rumor and return to his own land. And I will make him fall by the sword in his own land.”<sup>8</sup> Then Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that the king had left Lachish.<sup>9</sup> When he heard *them* say concerning Tirhakah king of Cush, “He has come out to fight against you,” and when he heard *it* he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,<sup>10</sup> “Thus you shall say to Hezekiah king of Judah, ‘Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, “Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.”<sup>11</sup> Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the lands, destroying them completely. So will you be spared?<sup>12</sup> Did the gods of those nations which my fathers have destroyed deliver them, *even* Gozan and Haran and Rezepah and the sons of Eden who *were* in Telassar?<sup>13</sup> Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, *and of* Hena and Ivvah?”<sup>14</sup> Then Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it, and he went up to the house of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord.<sup>15</sup> Hezekiah prayed to the Lord saying,<sup>16</sup> “O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, who is enthroned *above* the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.<sup>17</sup> Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear; open Your eyes, O Lord, and see; and listen to all the words of Sennacherib, who sent *them* to reproach the living God.<sup>18</sup> Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have devastated all the countries and their lands,<sup>19</sup> and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods but the work of men’s hands, wood and stone. So they have destroyed them.<sup>20</sup> Now, O Lord our God, deliver us from his hand that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, Lord, are God.”