

A distressing letter from an enemy 37:14.

Contextual background

Hezekiah is the son of Ahaz and the father of Manasseh, both relatives were wicked king in Judah. He was 25 when he became King and he reigned for 29 years in Jerusalem. 2 Kings 18: 1-2. One of the good kings in the South.

The nation of Israel at this point is already divided into two kingdoms and though the Northern kingdom was the largest, they have already been destroyed (Samaria) and scattered by the Assyrians.

Assyria was dominant and consolidating its power while Babylon is raising up.

Assyria was known for inflicting inhumane cruelty its enemies.

Hezekiah recognised how cruel Assyria was with other nations 37:18-19.

Some of their practice is dragging people with fish hook, flaying people alive (skinning).

Sennacherib conquered most of the cities in Judah and came up against Jerusalem in different phases. The final threat was a letter sent to the king of Judah.

What would you do if you were Hezekiah?

We all receive distressing letter from the enemy, from time to time in various circumstances: challenging family problems, fear related to debts, challenging medical condition...

For Hezekiah it was the pressure to keep Jerusalem safe. 3 actions he took:

- 1- **He acknowledged his fear.** 37:1-3. Everything is not ok! Having the courage to admit that we have a problem is caring about ourselves.
- 2- **He turned to the right people, seeking advice.** 37:2; there was temptation to seek advice from the wrong source: Egypt. He mobilised those he trusts to stand with him in prayer. Prayer is the most power tool we have to bring about God's redemptive plan in the society. And, it is free of charge.
- 3- **He cried out to God.** Calling on God's nature and character 14-17. He attacks his fear by focusing on faith building characters of God.

Turning our biggest fear into an opportunity that shows that our God is a living and active in human history.

Application: When you receive a stressful letter from Satan, do not keep. Take it and spread it before God.

Carefully consider wise advice.