

### Sennacherib Sends Hezekiah a Taunting Letter (701 BC)

2 Kings 19:8–13	Isaiah 37:8–13	2 Chronicles 32:16–17
<p>8 When <i>the</i> chief commander returned, he found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that he had departed from Lachish.</p> <p>9 He heard about Tirhakah, the king of Cush, saying, “Look, he has set out to fight with you,”</p> <p>so he again sent messengers to Hezekiah,</p> <p>saying,</p> <p>10 “Thus you shall say to Hezekiah the king of Judah, ‘Let not your God whom you <i>are</i> trusting deceive you, by his saying, “Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria!”</p> <p>11 Look, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the lands, by utterly destroying them, and shall you be delivered?</p> <p>12 Did the gods of the nations that my predecessors destroyed deliver them? <i>Not</i> Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, <i>nor</i> the children of Eden who <i>were</i> in Tel Assar.</p> <p>13 Where are the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?”</p>	<p>8 And Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he had heard that he had left from Lachish.</p> <p>9 Now he heard concerning Tirhakah the king of Cush, saying, “He has set out to fight against you.”</p> <p>When he heard <i>it</i>,</p> <p>he sent messengers to Hezekiah,</p> <p>saying,</p> <p>10 “You shall say this to Hezekiah, king of Judah: ‘Do not let your God in whom you trust in him deceive you by saying, “Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.”</p> <p>11 Look! you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands to destroy them, and you—shall you be delivered?</p> <p>12 Did the gods of the nations that my predecessors destroyed deliver them—Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the sons of Eden who <i>were</i> in Telassar?</p> <p>13 Where <i>is</i> the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, or Ivvah?”</p>	<p>16 And still more his servants said against Yahweh God and against Hezekiah his servant.</p> <p>17 And he wrote letters to treat Yahweh the God of Israel with contempt and spoke against him, saying,</p> <p>“As the gods of the nations of the earth who did not save their people from my hand,</p> <p>so likewise the God of Hezekiah will not save his people from my hand.”</p>

### Hezekiah’s Second Prayer For Deliverance (701 BC)

2 Kings 19:14–19	Isaiah 37:14–20	2 Chronicles 32:20
<p>14 Hezekiah took the letters from the hand of the messengers and read them. <i>Then</i> he went up to the temple of Yahweh, and Hezekiah spread them out before the presence of Yahweh.</p> <p>15 Then Hezekiah</p> <p>prayed before the face of Yahweh and said,</p> <p>“O Yahweh, God of Israel who lives <i>above</i> the cherubim. You <i>are</i> God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the world; you have made the heavens and the earth.</p> <p>16 Incline your ears and hear; open, O Yahweh, your eyes and see and hear the words of Sennacherib which he has sent to insult the living God.</p>	<p>14 And Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers, and he read it. Then he went up <i>to</i> the temple of Yahweh, and Hezekiah spread it out before the presence of Yahweh.</p> <p>15 And Hezekiah</p> <p>prayed to Yahweh, saying,</p> <p>16 “Yahweh of hosts, God of Israel who is enthroned on the cherubim, you <i>are</i> the one, God by yourself, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you are the one who made the heavens and the earth.</p> <p>17 Yahweh, extend your ear and hear! Yahweh, open your eyes and see, and hear all the words of Sennacherib that he has sent to taunt the living God!</p>	<p>20 Then King Hezekiah and Isaiah the son of Amoz, the prophet, prayed concerning this. And they cried to the heavens.</p>

<p>17 Truly, O Yahweh, the kings of Assyria have utterly destroyed the nations and their land.</p> <p>18 He has hurled their gods in the fire because they <i>are</i> not gods, but the work of the hands of a human <i>made of</i> wood and stone, so they destroyed them.</p> <p>19 So then, O Yahweh our God, rescue us, please, from his hand, that all of the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Yahweh, you alone are God!”</p>	<p>18 Truly, Yahweh, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the lands and their land,</p> <p>19 to set their gods in the fire, for they <i>were</i> not gods, but <i>the</i> work of human hands, wood and stone, and they destroyed them.</p> <p>20 So now, Yahweh, our God, save us from his hand so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you <i>are</i> Yahweh, you alone!”</p>	
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### Yahweh Sends Sennacherib a Taunting Reply (701 bc)

2 Kings 19:20–34	Isaiah 37:21–35
<p>20 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says Yahweh the God of Israel, ‘What you have prayed to me about Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.</p> <p>21 This is the word that Yahweh has spoken concerning him:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">She despises you, she scorns you, the virgin daughter of Zion. Behind you the daughter of Jerusalem shakes <i>her</i> head.</p> <p>22 Whom have you mocked and reviled? And against whom have you have raised <i>your</i> voice and have haughtily lifted your eyes? Against the Holy One of Israel!</p> <p>23 By the hand of your messengers you have mocked the Lord, and you have said, ‘With my many chariots I have gone up <i>to</i> the height of the mountains. <i>To</i> the remote areas of Lebanon, I have felled the tallest of its cedars, the choicest of its cypresses. I have entered the place of overnight lodging. Even <i>to</i> the edge of forest of its fertile land.</p> <p>24 I dug <i>wells</i> and I drank foreign water, and I dried up with the sole of my steps all the canals of Egypt.’</p> <p>25 Have you not heard? From long ago I have determined it, from the days of old I have planned it, and now I am bringing it to pass. It shall be turned into a pile of rocks; fortified cities are ruined.</p> <p>26 Their inhabitants, short of hand, shall be dismayed; and they shall be ashamed. They have become green plants of the open field, and tender grass, green grass of the roof and blight before the standing grain.</p> <p>27 Your sitting, your going out, and your coming <i>in</i> I know, and your raging against me.</p> <p>28 Because you are raging against me, and your arrogance has come up in my ears, I will put my nose ring in your nose and my bridle in your mouth. And I will turn you back</p>	<p>21 And Isaiah son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, “Thus says Yahweh the God of Israel: ‘Because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib, king of Assyria, 22 this <i>is</i> the word that Yahweh has spoken concerning him:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">She shows contempt for you; she derides you, virgin daughter of Zion; she shakes <i>her</i> head behind you, daughter of Jerusalem.</p> <p>23 Whom have you taunted and blasphemed, and against whom have you raised up <i>your</i> voice and lifted your eyes upward? To the holy one of Israel!</p> <p>24 By the hand of your servants you have taunted the Lord, and you have said, “With my many chariots, I myself have gone up <i>the</i> height of <i>the</i> mountains, <i>to</i> the remote areas of Lebanon. And I cut off its tall cedars, the choicest of its junipers. And I came <i>to</i> the height of its limit, the forest of its orchard.</p> <p>25 I myself dug and drank waters, and I caused all the streams of Egypt to dry up by the sole of my feet.”</p> <p>26 Have you not heard from a long time ago? I have made it from days of primeval time, and I formed it. Now I have brought it <i>about</i>, and it is for fortified cities to collapse into heaps of destroyed stones.</p> <p>27 And their inhabitants <i>are</i> weak; they are dismayed, and they are ashamed; they have become <i>like</i> plants of <i>the</i> field, and <i>like</i> greens of grass, <i>like</i> grass on <i>the</i> roofs and a cultivated field before the standing grain.</p> <p>28 And I know your sitting down and your going out, and your coming in, and your raging against me.</p> <p>29 Because you were enraged against me, and your noise has come up to my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bridle on your lips, and I will turn you back</p>

<p>on the way that you have come.</p> <p>29 “This will be the sign for you: Eat the volunteer plants for the year, and in the second year, the volunteer plants that spring up from that. But <i>in</i> the third year, sow and reap, plant vineyards and eat their fruit.</p> <p>30 The remainder of the house of Judah which survives will again <i>take</i> root below and bear fruit above.</p> <p>31 For from Jerusalem a remnant shall go out and survivors from Mount Zion;</p> <p>the zeal of Yahweh will do this.</p> <p>32 “Therefore thus says Yahweh to the king of Assyria,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“He shall not come to this city, nor shall he shoot an arrow there, nor shall he bring a small shield near her, nor shall he cast a siege ramp against her.</p> <p>33 By the way that he came to her he shall return; but to this city, he shall not come,”</p> <p>declares Yahweh.</p> <p>34 And I will defend this city to save her for my sake and for the sake of David my servant.”</p>	<p>on the way <i>by</i> which you came.</p> <p>30 And this <i>shall be</i> the sign for you: the eating of volunteer plants this year, and in the second year self-seeded plants, and in the third year sow, reap, plant vineyards, and eat their fruit.</p> <p>31 And the remnant of the house of Judah that remain shall grow roots downwards and make fruit upwards.</p> <p>32 For a remnant shall go out from Jerusalem and survivors from mountain Zion.</p> <p>The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will do this.’</p> <p>33 Therefore thus says Yahweh concerning the king of Assyria:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">‘He shall not come to this city, and he shall not shoot an arrow there, and he shall not meet it <i>with</i> a shield, and he shall not heap a siege ramp up against her.</p> <p>34 He shall return by the way that he came, and he shall not come to this city,’</p> <p>declares Yahweh.</p> <p>35 ‘And I will defend this city, to save it for my sake and for the sake of David, my servant.’”</p>
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### Yahweh’s Angel Destroys the Assyrian Army (701 BC)

2 Kings 19:35–36	Isaiah 37:36–37	2 Chronicles 32:21a, 22–23
<p>35 It happened in that night that an angel of Yahweh went out, and he struck down one hundred and eighty-five thousand</p> <p>in the camp of Assyria. When they got up early in the morning, look! All of them <i>were</i> dead corpses.</p> <p>36 Then Sennacherib king of Assyria set out and went and returned and lived in Nineveh.</p>	<p>36 And the angel of Yahweh set out and struck one hundred and eighty-five thousand</p> <p>in the camp of the Assyrians. When they rose in the morning, look! All of them <i>were</i> dead corpses.</p> <p>37 Then Sennacherib king of Assyria left, went, and returned and lived at Nineveh.</p>	<p>21a Then Yahweh sent an angel, and he destroyed every mighty warrior of strength, commander, and officer in the camp of the king of Assyria.</p> <p>And he returned with shamed face to his land</p> <p>22 So Yahweh saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib, king of Assyria, and from the all <i>their enemies</i>, and gave them rest all around.</p> <p>23 And many brought tribute to Yahweh, to Jerusalem, and precious things to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the eyes of all the nations thereafter.</p>