



# KING OF THE WORLD

Studies in Isaiah

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*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

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### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

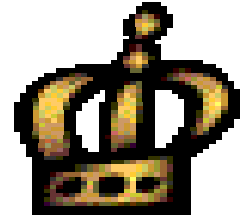
- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

## A Bigger Boat

### Introduction to Isaiah 36-39

When the enormity of the great white shark settled in on everyone in the movie, *Jaws*, Chief Brody observed, “you’re going to need a bigger boat”; the standard size boat wouldn’t work to kill this deadly creature. Similarly, people mistakenly think they have the wherewithal to overcome God, but they don’t have a “boat” big enough to do this. The Assyrian leaders of Isaiah’s time illustrated this. They thought they could defeat God and His people, but they were mistaken. All God had to do was say the word and they would be reduced to nothing. The story of Isaiah 36-39 is not only about God’s ability to overcome the enemy; it is also about the best way to respond as His people when we face such overwhelming opposition. First, we see Judah’s initial response to Rabshakeh, the

Assyrian commander, as he tried to force them to capitulate through taunting, criticism of their leaders, bullying, and even bribery. Eliakim and Shebna, Judah’s two representatives, tried to get him to lower his tone so as to not frighten the people, but he only intensified his tactics when they asked. We can’t go along with the enemy, but we must resist him; so, when they decided to simply be silent God began to act. Instead of responding to the enemy, they then chose to rely on God through prayer. This is the correct response when enemies attack; we must lay it all out before God and call upon Him to act. He is the only one who can truly defeat the enemy. When they did this God responded first by diverting Rabshakeh with a rumor, then by actually sending the Assyrians back



**As the King of the world God deserves all our loyalty.**

home to eventual defeat. However, although Judah responded right in this situation, their king, Hezekiah, led them down the wrong path later. After he had been healed by God of a mortal illness, he relaxed and allowed the Babylonians to “case” his kingdom because of his pride. As a result God prophesied through Isaiah that they would return in the next generation to devastate Judah. These two stories show that God will not allow our pride to go unchecked. When it comes to God, we’re going to need a bigger boat.

## Daily Study Questions for Isaiah 36-39

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.thehospitalchurch.com/small\\_groups/ABFs/leader\\_resources](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com/small_groups/ABFs/leader_resources))

<p>1. Read Isaiah 36:1-12. Describe the tactics of intimidation that Rabshakeh used (v5, 6, 7, 8, 10). How did Judah react (v11), and what was Rabshakeh’s response (v12)? Apply.</p>	
<p>2. In Is 36:13-22 how did Rabshakeh seek further to intimidate Judah (v13-14, 15, 16-17, 18-20)? How did Judah respond this time (v21-22)? Why (v21)?</p>	
<p>3. From 37:1-13 how did Hezekiah respond (v1, 2-5) and why was this good? What happened as a result (v6-8) and what did Rabshakeh do (v9-13)? What does this show us about the enemy?</p>	

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## Isaiah 36-39 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From 37:14-20 what was good about Hezekiah's prayer (v14, 15-16, 17-19, 20)? How can you apply this to your prayers?

5. Based on 37:21-29 how did God respond to Hezekiah's prayer (v22-25, 29) and why (v21)? What did Assyria not realize (v26-28)?

6. Using 37:30-38 what did God promise to Judah (v30, 31-32) and how would it occur (v32)? What would happen to Assyria (v33-35, 36-38)?

7. In 38:1-8 what happened to Hezekiah (v1) and how did he respond (v2-3)? Do you think this was good? What was God's answer (v4-5), and sign (v6-8)?

8. Looking at 38:9-22 how was Hezekiah feeling about death based on his poem (v10-15)? What did he do about it (v16-20) and how did he get well (v21)? How can we apply this?

9. From 39:1-4 who visited Hezekiah (v1) and how did he feel about this (v2)? What motivated him, and how did Isaiah respond (v3-4)?

10. Based on 39:5-8 what was God's judgment of Hezekiah's actions (v5-7), and what was Hezekiah's reaction (v8)? What does this story tell us?

11. Evaluate Hezekiah's approach to the Assyrian threat, to the threat of death, and to the visit of the Babylonians. What was good, and what was bad in what Hezekiah did?

### Scripture to Remember

*"O Lord Almighty, God of Israel,  
enthroned between the cherubim,  
you alone are God over all the king-  
doms of the earth. You have  
made heaven and earth"*

**Isaiah 37:16 (NIV)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

**We're on the web**

**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

### Life Group Questions—Let's Get Real About Making An Impact

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. If you got to pick one person to meet who would that be? Why? What does it take to make an impact on someone else?
2. Look at 1 Pet 5:1-4. Why are "servant-leaders" the best kind? Discuss the checkpoints for service—freely, eagerly, exemplary—and which you struggle with most.
3. From 1 Pet 5:5-6 why must we deal with pride to make a good impact on others? How have you seen it result in division, or dishonor, or destruction?
4. Discuss the meaning of humility and how to cultivate it in our lives.
5. In 1 Peter 5:7 we are told to deal with worry 3 ways—conclusively (cast), completely (all) and confidently (He cares). Talk about how you can do each of these this week.
6. Why is worry an attack on the character of God? How can we remember this?
7. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.