Isaiah #3 Isaiah and Hezekiah (chapters 36-39)

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1. II Kings 18:3-7

³He did what was pleasing to the LORD, just as his father David had done. ⁴He abolished the shrines and smashed the pillars and cut down the sacred post. He also broke into pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until that time the Israelites had been offering sacrifices to it; it was called Nehushtan. ⁵He trusted only in the LORD the God of Israel; there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those before him. ⁶He clung to the LORD; he did not turn away from following Him, but kept the commandments that the LORD had given to Moses. ⁷And the LORD was always with him; he was successful wherever he turned. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him.

מלכים בי יח:ג-ז

ָג) וַיַּעַשֹּ הַיָּשָׁר בְּעֵינֵי הִי כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר עָשָּׁה דָּוִד אָבִיו: (ד) הוּא הֵסִיר אֶת הַבָּמוֹת וְשְׁבַּר אֶת הַמַּצֵבֹּת וְכָרַת אֶת הָאֲשֵׁרָה וְכִתַּת נְחַשׁ הַנְּחֹשֶׁת אֲשֶׁר עָשָּׁה מֹשֶׁה כִּי עַד הַיָּמִים הָהֵמָּה הָיוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מְקַשְּׁרִים לוֹ וַיִּקְרָא לוֹ נְחַשְׁתָּן: (ה) בַּהי אֱ-לֹקֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּטָח וְאַחֲרָיו לֹא הָיָה בָּמֹהוּ בְּכֹל מַלְכֵי יְהוּדָה וַאֲשֶׁר הִיוּ לְפָנָיו: (ו) וַיִּדְבַּק בַּהי לֹא סָר מֵאַחֲרָיו וַיִּשְׁמֹר מִצְוֹתָיו אֲשֶׁר צִּנָּה הִי אֶת מֹשֶׁה: (ז) וְהָיָה הִי עִמּוֹ בְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא יַשְׂכִּיל וַיִּמְרֹד בִּמֵלֵךְ אֲשׁוּר וְלֹא עַבָּדוֹ:

2. Isaiah 36:4-18

⁴The Rabshakeh said to them, "You tell Hezekiah: Thus said the Great King, the king of Assyria: What makes you so confident? ⁵I suppose mere talk makes counsel and valor for war! Look, on whom are you relying, that you have rebelled against me? ⁶You are relying on Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff, which enters and punctures the palm of anyone who leans on it. That's what Pharaoh king of Egypt is like to all who rely on him. ⁷And if you tell me that you are relying on the LORD your God, He is the very one whose shrines and altars Hezekiah did away with, telling Judah and Jerusalem, 'You must worship only at this altar!'…¹⁸Beware of letting Hezekiah mislead you by saying, 'The LORD will save us.' Did any of the gods of the other nations save his land from the king of Assyria?"

ישעיהו לו :ד-יח

(ד) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם רַב־שָׁקֵה אִמְרוּינָא אֶלּחִזְקִיָּהוּ כַּה־אָמֵר הַפֶּלֶךְ הַנְּדוֹל מֶלֶךְ אֵשׁוּר מָה הַבְּטְחוֹן הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר בְּטַחְתָּ : (ה) אָמֵרְתִּי אַדְ־דְּבַר־שְׁפָתִים עֵצֶה וּגְבוּרָה לַמִּלְחָמֶה עַתָּה עַלִּמִי בָטַחְתָּ כִּי מַרְדְתָּ בִּי : (וּ) הִנֵּה בָטַחְתָּ עַל־מִשְׁעֶנֶת הַקְּנֶה הָרָצוּץ הַזֶּה עַל־מִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר יִפְּמֵךְ אִישׁ עָלָיו וּבָא בְכַפּוֹ וּנְקָבָהְּ כֵּן פַּרְעֹה מֶלֶךְ־מִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר יִפְּמֵךְ אִישׁ עָלָיו וּבָא בְכַפּוֹ וּנְקָבָהְּ כֵּן פַּרְעֹה מֶלֶדְ־מִצְרַיִם אֲשֶׁר הְלֵּכְינוּ בָּטְחְנוּ הַבְּעֹרְהוּא אֲשֶׁר הַסִיר חִזְקִיָּהוּ אֶת־בְּלְם לִפְנֵי הַמִּזְבֵּח הַיָּה תִּשְׁתַחווּ(יח) פֶּרְיַסִּית אֶתְכֶם חִזְקִיָּהוּ לֵאמֹר הי יַצִּיְלוּ הַהִּצִּילוּ הֱלָהִי הַגּּוֹיִם אִישׁ אֶת־אַרְצוֹ מִיַּדְ מֶלְּדְּ אֲשׁוּר :

3. Isaiah 37:1-7, 33-36

¹When King Hezekiah heard this, he rent his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth and went into the House of the LORD. ²He also sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, Shebna, the scribe, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz... ⁶Isaiah said to them, "Tell your master as follows: Thus said the LORD: Do not be frightened by the words of blasphemy against Me that you have heard from the minions of the king of Assyria. ⁷I will delude him: He will hear a rumor and return to his land, and I will make him fall by the sword in his land."

³³"Assuredly, thus said the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not enter this city; he shall not shoot an arrow at it, or advance upon it with a shield, or pile up a siegemound against it. ³⁴He shall go back by the way he came, he shall not enter this city—declares the LORD; ³⁵I will protect and save this city for My sake and for the sake of My servant David." ³⁶[That night] an angel of the LORD went out and struck down one hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp, and the following morning they were all dead corpses.

ישעיהו לז :א-ז, לג-לו

(א) וַיְהִי כִּשְׁמֹעַ הַמֶּלֶךְ חִזְקִיָּהוּ וַיִּקְרַע אֶת־בְּגָדִיו וַיִּתְכֵּס בַּשָּׁק וַיָּבֹא בֵּית ה׳: (ב) וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶת־אֶלְיָקִים אֲשִׁר־עַל־הַבַּיִת וְאֵת שְׁבְנָא הַסּוֹפֵר וְאֵת זִקְנֵי הַכּּהַנִים מִתְכַּסִים בַּשַּׁקִים אֶל־יְשַׁעְיָהוּ בֶּן־אָמוֹץ הַנָּבִיא :...(ו) אֲשֶׁר־עַל־הַבַּיִת וְאֵת שְׁבְּנָא הַסּוֹפֵר וְאֵת זִקְנֵי הַכּּהַנִים מִתְכַּסִים בַּשַּׁקִים אֶל־יְצִיהָוּ בֶּןרְאָמוֹץ הַנְּבָּיא :...(ו) נְּיְאָמִר וֹתְיּ וְּאֶל־אֲדֹנִיכֶם כֹּה אָמֵר הי אֵל־הִירָא מִפְּנֵי הַהְּבָּלְתִיו בַּחֶרֶב בְּאַרְצוֹ : נְּיְאָר מְלֵּבְי מְלֵּךְ אַשִּׁרְ הִי אֶל מֶלֶךְ אֲשִׁוּר לֹא יָבוֹא אֶל הָעִיר הַזֹּאת וְלֹא יוֹרֶה שָׁם חֵץ וְלֹא יְקַדְּמֶנָּה מְנֵן וְלֹא יִשְׁפֹּךְ עָלֶיהָ כֹּלְלָה: (לד) בַּדֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁרְ בָּא בָּהּ יָשׁוֹב וְאֶל הָעִיר הַזֹּאת לֹא יָבוֹא נְאָם הי: (לה) וְנֵּנוֹת עַלְּהָיעִ לַּתְיִי עַלְּהָייעִהּ לְּמִלְיָה וֹלְבָּא וֹּלְמַעְן דְּוִד עַבְדִי: (לו) וַיֵּצֵא מַלְאַךְּ הי וַיַּכָּה בְּמַחֲנֵה אֲשׁוּר מֵאָה וּשְׁמִנִים וַחֲמִשְׁה אַלּף וּשֹׁכִימוּ בַּקְּר וֹהנּה כִלּם בּּגִרים מִתִים :

4. Sennacherib Prism (in James B. Pritchard, ANET³, p. 288)

As to Hezekiah the Jew, he did not submit to my yoke, I laid siege to 46 of his strong cities, walled forts and to the countless small villages in their vicinity, and conquered (them) by means of well-stamped (earth-)ramps, and battering-rams...I drove out (of them) 200,150 people...Himself I made a prisoner in Jerusalem, his royal residence, like a bird in a cage...Hezekiah himself, whom the terror-inspiring splendor of my lordship had overwhelmed and whose irregular and elite troops which he had brought into Jerusalem, his royal residence, in order to strengthen (it), had deserted him, did send me, later...30 talents of gold, 800 talents of silver...(and) all kinds of valuable treasures...

5. Isaiah 38:1-6

¹In those days Hezekiah fell dangerously ill. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz came and said to him, "Thus said the LORD: Set your affairs in order, for you are going to die; you will not get well"… ⁶I will also rescue you and this city from the hands of the king of Assyria. I will protect this city.

ישעיהו לח:א-ו

(א) בַּיָמִים הָהֵם חָלָה חִזְקִיָּהוּ לָמוּת וַיָּבוֹא אֵלָיו יְשַׁעְיָהוּ בֶן אָמוֹץ הַנָּבִיא וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו כֹּה אָמֵר הי צֵוּ לְבֵיתֶךְ כִּי מֵת אַתָּה וְלֹא תִחְיֶה: (ב) וַיַּסֵּב חִזְקִיָּהוּ פָּנָיו אֶל הַקִּיר וַיִּתְפַּלֵל אֶל הי :...(ו) וּמִכַּף מֶלֶךְ אַשׁוּר אַצִּילִךְ וְאֵת הָעִיר הַזֹּאת וְגַנּוֹתִי עַל הָעִיר הַזֹּאת :

6. <u>Isaiah chapter 39</u>

¹At that time, Merodach-baladan son of Baladan, the king of Babylon, sent [envoys with] a letter and a gift to Hezekiah, for he had heard about his illness and recovery. ²Hezekiah was pleased by their coming, and he showed them his treasure house—the silver, the gold, the spices, and the fragrant oil—and all his armory, and everything that was to be found in his storehouses. There was nothing in his palace or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them... ⁵Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of Hosts: ⁶A time is coming when everything in your palace, which your ancestors have stored up to this day, will be carried off to Babylon; nothing will be left behind, said the LORD. ⁷And some of your sons, your own issue, whom you will have fathered, will be taken to serve as eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." ⁸Hezekiah declared to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD that you have spoken is good." For he thought, "It means that safety is assured for my time."

שעיהו פרק לט

(א) בָּעֵת הַהִּוֹא שָׁלַח מְרֹדַךְ בַּלְאֲדָן בֶּן בַּלְאֲדָן מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל סְפָרִים וּמִנְחָה אֶל חִזְקִיּהוּ וַיִּשְׁמַע כִּי חָלָה וַיֶּחֲזָק:

(ב) וַיִּשְׁמַח עֲלֵיהֶם חִזְקִיָּהוּ וַיַּרְאֵם אֶת בֵּית נכתה נְכֹתוֹ אֶת הַכֶּסֶף וְאֶת הַזָּהָב וְאֶת הַבְּשָׁמִים וְאֵת הַשָּׁמֶן (ב) וַיִּשְׁמַח עֲלֵיהֶם חִזְקִיָּהוּ וַיַּרְאֵם אֶת בִּית נכתה נְכֹתוֹ אֶת הַכֶּסֶף וְאֶת הַזְּהָב וְאָשׁר לֹא הַנְיה בְּבִיתוֹ וּבְּכָל הַשְׁלְתּוֹ :...(ה) וַיֹּאמֶר יְשַׁעְיָהוּ אֶל חִזְקִיָּהוּ שְׁמַע דְּבַר ה׳ צְבָ-אוֹת: (ו) הְנֵה יָמִים בָּאִים וְנִשָּׁא כָּל אֲשֶׁר בְּבֵר הֹי צְבָּ-אוֹת: (ו) וּמִבֶּנֶיךְ אֲשֶׁר צְּאוֹ מִמְּךְ אֲשֶׁר בְּבָל לֹא יִנְתֵר דָּבָר אָמֵר ה׳: (ז) וּמִבְּנֶיךְ אֲשֶׁר צְּאֵוֹ מִמְּךְ אֲשֶׁר הְבַּרְתְּ מִוֹים בְּהַיכַל מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל: (ח) וַיֹּאמֶר חִזְקִיָּהוּ אֶל יְשַׁעְיָהוּ טוֹב דְּבַר הי אֲשֶׁר דְּבַּרְתָּ וֹיִשְּׁתְ הִיוּ שָׁלִים וֹאמת בּימי:

7. Isaiah 31:1-3

¹Ha! Those who go down to Egypt for help and rely upon horses! They have put their trust in abundance of chariots, in vast numbers of riders, and they have not turned to the Holy One of Israel, they have not sought the LORD. ²But He too is wise! He has brought on misfortune, and has not canceled His word. So He shall rise against the house of evildoers, and the allies of the workers of iniquity. ³For the Egyptians are man, not God, and their horses are flesh, not spirit; and when the LORD stretches out His arm, the helper shall trip and the helped one shall fall, and both shall perish together.

יש<u>עיהו לא :א-ג</u>

(א) הוֹי הַיֹּרְדִים מִצְרַיִם לְעֶזְרָה עַל סוּסִים יִשְּׁעֵנוּ וַיִּבְטְחוּ עַל רֶכֶב כִּי רָב וְעַל פָּרָשִׁים כִּי עָצְמוּ מְאֹד וְלֹא שְׁעוּ עַל קְדוֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶת ה׳ לֹא דָרָשׁוּ : (ב) וְגַם הוּא חָכָם וַיָּבֵא רָע וְאֶת דְּבָרָיו לֹא הַסִיר וְקָם עַל בֵּית מְרַעִים וְעַל עֶזְרַת פֹּעֲלִי אָנֶן : (ג) וּמִצְרַיִם אָדָם וְלֹא אֵל וְסוּסֵיהֶם בָּשָּׁר וְלֹא רוּחַ וַה׳ יַשֶּׁה יָדוֹ וְכָשַׁל עוֹזֵר וְנָפַל עָזֵר וְזַחְדָּו כֵּלָם יִכְלָיוּן :

8. Isaiah 1:7-9

⁷Your land is a waste, your cities burnt down; before your eyes, the yield of your soil is consumed by strangers—a wasteland as overthrown by strangers! ⁸Fair Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard, like a hut in a cucumber field, like a city beleaguered. ⁹Had not the LORD of Hosts left us some survivors, we should be like Sodom, another Gomorrah.

ישעיהו א:ז-ט

(ז) אַרְצְכֶם שְׁמָמָה עָרֵיכֶם שְׂרָפוֹת אֵשׁ אַדְמַתְּכֶם לְנֶגְדְּכֶם זָרִים אֹכְלִים אֹתָהּ וּשְׁמָמָה כְּמַהְפֵּכַת זָרִים : (ח) וְנוֹתְרָה בַת צִּיּוֹן כְּסֻכָּה בְּכָרֶם כִּמְלוּנָה בְמִקְשָׁה כְּעִיר נְצוּרָה : (ט) לוּלֵי הי צְבָ-אוֹת הוֹתִיר לַנוּ שַׂרִיד כִּמִעֵט כִּסְדֹם הַיִּינוּ לַעֲמֹרָה דָּמִינוּ :

9. Isaiah 40:1-2

¹Comfort, oh comfort My people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and declare to her that her term of service is over, that her iniquity is expiated; for she has received at the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

ישעיהו מ:א-ב

(א) נַחֲמוּ נַחֲמוּ עַמִּי יֹאמַר אֱ-לֹקֵיכֶם : (ב) דַּבְּרוּ עַל לֵב יְרוּשָׁלַם וְקִרְאוּ אֵלֶיהָ כִּי מָלְאָה צְבָאָהּ כִּי נִרְצָה עֲוֹנָהּ כִּי לָקְחָה מִיַּד ה׳ כִּפְלַיִם בְּכָל חֵטֹּאתֶיהָ :