
WEAPONS OF PEACE

PEACE TREATY WITH PAGANS

- ▶ Divided kingdom
 - ▶ Northern kingdom Israel
 - ▶ Southern kingdom Judah
 - ▶ Many bad and evil kings that didn't follow God
 - ▶ Worshipped pagan gods
 - ▶ Did evil in the eyes of the Lord

PEACE TREATY WITH PAGANS

- ▶ Israel especially didn't follow God
 - ▶ Israelites had sinned against the Lord their God (2 Kings 17:7)
 - ▶ They worshipped other gods (17:7)
 - ▶ Followed practices of other nations (17:8)
 - ▶ Secretly did things against the Lord their God that were not right (17:9)
 - ▶ They did wicked things that provoked the Lord to anger (17:11)

PEACE TREATY WITH PAGANS

- ▶ Acted “as the nations” (2 Kings 17:11)
 - ▶ Idol worship (v12)
 - ▶ Stiff-necked (14), did not trust in the Lord (14)
 - ▶ Rejected His decrees, covenants, warnings (15)
 - ▶ Followed worthless idols, became worthless themselves (15)
 - ▶ Imitated pagan nations (15), forsook commands (16), made idols (16)
 - ▶ Worshipped Baal (16), sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire (17)
 - ▶ Practiced divination & sorcery, sold themselves to do evil (17)

PEACE TREATY WITH PAGANS

- ▶ Lord was angry, removed them from His presence (17:18)
- ▶ Only the tribe of Judah was left (18)
- ▶ Judah wasn't perfect
 - ▶ Judah did not keep commands, followed practices Israel introduced (19)
- ▶ So the people of Israel were taken into exile in Assyria (2 Kings 17:22)

ISAIAH 36:1-3

- ▶ ¹In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. ²Then the king of Assyria sent his field commander with a large army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. When the commander stopped at the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer's Field, ³Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went out to him.

PEACE TREATY WITH PAGANS

- ▶ Assyrian king defies Judah and King Hezekiah
- ▶ Isaiah 36:7 “And if you say to me, ‘We are depending on the Lord our God’ — isn’t he the one whose high places and altars Hezekiah removed, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, “You must worship before this altar?”
- ▶ Isaiah 36:8 “Come now, make a bargain with my master, the king of Assyria”
- ▶ Isaiah 36:10 “Furthermore, have I come to attack and destroy this land without the Lord? The Lord himself told me to march against this country and destroy it.”

ISAIAH 36:13-14

- ▶ ¹³Then the commander stood and called out in Hebrew, “Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! ¹⁴This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you. He cannot deliver you!

ISAIAH 36:15-16

- ▶ ¹⁵Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the Lord when he says, 'The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'
- ¹⁶Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the Lord when he says, 'The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'

ISAIAH 36:17-18

- ▶ ¹⁷until I come and take you to a land like your own—a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards. ¹⁸“Do not let Hezekiah mislead you when he says, ‘The Lord will deliver us.’ Have the gods of any nations ever delivered their lands from the hand of the king of Assyria?

ISAIAH 36:19-20

- ▶ ¹⁹Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand? ²⁰Who of all the gods of these countries have been able to save their lands from me? How then can the Lord deliver Jerusalem from my hand?”

PEACE TREATY WITH PAGANS

- ▶ Assyrian king underestimated God of Israel (Judah)
- ▶ King Hezekiah followed God
 - ▶ He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord (2 Kings 18:3)
 - ▶ He removed the high places, smashed....cut down Asherah poles (4)
 - ▶ Trusted in the Lord, God of Israel, no one like him among kings of Judah (5)
 - ▶ Held fast to the Lord, did not cease to follow, kept the commands (6)
 - ▶ And the Lord was with him (7)

ISAIAH 37:1-2 - HEZEKIAH TRUSTS GOD, NOT OTHERS

- ▶ ^{37:1}When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth *and went into the temple of the Lord.* ²He sent Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and the leading priests, all wearing sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.

ISAIAH 37:3 - HEZEKIAH TRUSTS GOD, NOT OTHERS

- ▶ ³They told him, “This is what Hezekiah says: This day is a day of distress and rebuke and disgrace, as when children come to the moment of birth and there is no strength to deliver them.

ISAIAH 37:4 - HEZEKIAH TRUSTS GOD, NOT OTHERS

- ▶ ⁴It may be that the Lord your God will hear the words of the field commander, whom his master, the king of Assyria, has sent to ridicule the living God, and that he will rebuke him for the words the Lord your God has heard. Therefore pray for the remnant that still survives.”

ISAIAH 37:5-6 - HEZEKIAH TRUSTS GOD, NOT OTHERS

- ▶ ⁵When King Hezekiah's officials came to Isaiah, ⁶Isaiah said to them, "Tell your master, 'This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid of what you have heard—those words with which the underlings of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me."

ISAIAH 37:7 - HEZEKIAH TRUSTS GOD, NOT OTHERS

- ▶ ⁷Listen! When he hears a certain report, I will make him want to return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword.””

HEZEKIAH TRUSTS GOD, NOT OTHERS

- ▶ Assyrian king tried to deceive Judah
 - ▶ Isaiah 36:18 “Do not let Hezekiah mislead you when he says, ‘The Lord will deliver us.’ Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria?”
 - ▶ Difference...gods vs. God
 - ▶ Hezekiah prays to the Lord

HEZEKIAH TRUSTS GOD, NOT OTHERS

- ▶ Hezekiah prays to the Lord (Isaiah 37:14-20)
 - ▶ “you alone are God” (Isaiah 37:16)
 - ▶ thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them (19)
 - ▶ were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands (19)
 - ▶ 37:20 “O Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that **you alone, O Lord, are God.**”

GOD'S PEACE

- ▶ Isaiah 2:1-4
 - ▶ God's people struggle, face opposition
 - ▶ God has a plan for peace
 - ▶ Through the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ (Isaiah 9:6-7)
 - ▶ Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

GOD'S PEACE

- ▶ God has a plan for peace
 - ▶ Through the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ
 - ▶ Isaiah 9:7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.
- ▶ Messianic Age
 - ▶ Symbolic - present time, preaching of the gospel, NT
 - ▶ Literal - Christ's future reign over world for a thousand years from Jerusalem

GOD'S PEACE

▶ HOPE

- ▶ “the last days”
- ▶ Messiah reigns from throne in Jerusalem
- ▶ Isaiah 2:1-4 similar to Micah 4:1-3
- ▶ Hope began when Jesus came 1st time - Peter speaks of Acts 2
 - ▶ Hebrews 1:2 “in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe”

GOD'S PEACE

- ▶ “the last days”
 - ▶ Peoples of earth come voluntarily to be taught the law (Isaiah 2:3)
 - ▶ Grasp God's way, redirects their lives (2:3)
 - ▶ The Lord administers justice (2:4)
 - ▶ Weapons become ag implements of choice (2:4)

GOD'S PEACE

- ▶ Micah 5:5 “And he will be their peace”
- ▶ Ephesians 2:14 “ For he himself is our peace”
- ▶ What do I bring?
 - ▶ Micah 6:6-7 “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

WEAPONS OF PEACE

- ▶ Micah 6:8 “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”
 - ▶ Live a life of justice and kindness
 - ▶ Seek forgiveness and forgive others
 - ▶ Live faithfully
 - ▶ Obedience to God

WEAPONS OF PEACE

- ▶ Hosea 6:6 “For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.”
 - ▶ Be merciful to others
 - ▶ Acknowledge God
 - ▶ He is faithful
 - ▶ Like Hezekiah - go to God
 - ▶ Colossians 3:2 “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

WEAPONS OF PEACE

- ▶ 1 Samuel 15:22 “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.”
 - ▶ Obedience
 - ▶ Obedience at all times
 - ▶ Obedience of convenience does not work

WEAPONS OF PEACE

- ▶ Acknowledge God
 - ▶ Obedience to God
 - ▶ Live faithfully
 - ▶ Show mercy
 - ▶ Justice
 - ▶ Kindness
 - ▶ Forgiveness
- All will know God's peace
 - Walking with God is not a solo sport