

attempt to figure out exactly what it means. It is noticeable that the word "and" does not occur in the sentence. The word here translated "also" is defined in the standard Hebrew dictionary as a "conjunction denoting addition, especially of something greater." It is translated "how much more" in 1 Samuel 23:3. Our verse might be better rendered, "Be thou who art their arm every morning also our salvation in the time of trouble," or freely translated "Thou art their arm every morning; be thou also our salvation in the time of trouble." In all the events that occur in this world, God is in control. He uses the mighty Assyrian aggressor for His purposes; He uses the armies of the nations to carry out His will. How much more, then, may we pray to Him to be our salvation in the midst of trouble and to give deliverance and protection to those who are His own and who are trusting in Him.

Verses 3 and 4 vividly describe the fate that befell Sennacherib's army. When God lifted up His arm against it and multitudes of the troops died during the night, a great tumult arose. The people fled and the nations were scattered. The inhabitants of Jerusalem must have gone through the camp of the Assyrians like locusts as they exultantly gathered great amounts of spoil left after the departure of the few survivors.

Verse 5 praises the Lord for the wonderful things that He has done. By His defeat of Sennacherib, He has filled Zion with judgment and righteousness.

Verse 6 is addressed to Hezekiah, but its last phrase speaks about him in the third person. For some reason this seemed difficult to the editors of the American Standard Version, and they changed the expression "his treasure" to "thy treasure," and made a footnote "Hebrew his." Again, as in verse 2, the change of text is entirely unnecessary. In poetic discourse, such as makes up the greater part of the book of Isaiah, it is quite common to address an individual in one sentence and to speak about him in the next one.

Here Hezekiah is promised that in his time there will be stability with wisdom, knowledge, and strength of salvation. We know that Hezekiah instituted a great revival in the land. God blessed him with all manner of spiritual blessings, but financially his position was not good, as Sennacherib had