

sends him and takes it to the temple and lays it before the Lord, and the Lord sends Isa. to him with a message. And so the Syro-Ephraemite invasion we have to assume as background to much of Isaiah. It is briefly mentioned in these two verses. But this under Sennacherib is described at length in Isa. 36-37, and we read there how the Lord gave him a message, and he said, This yr. you Jeru. will have to subsist on what grows of itself. In other words you are shut up in Jeru. The Assyrians are in Lachish, a few miles away. You go out when the Assyrians are not near, you go out and you pick whatever you can, whatever grows by itself in the fields, and you rush back before any Assyrian band comes near. Get behind the walls of Jerusalem. And next year, you have to live on what grows by itself. You have no opportunity to plan and to till the land and to grow in proper fashion. So you are in near famine condition for two years. But he says in the 3rd yr. you will be able to plant and to grow in proper fashion. In other words, by the 3rd yr. you will no longer have a danger from Sennacherib. Now this message that God gave thro Isa. here in Isa. 36 and 37 did not tell what was going to happen, but told them that God was going to protect them. When the Assyrians had conquered Syria the way they had, and Israel the way they had, and had all these forces added to their own, it was only Divine power that could possibly protect them. And so we read in all three of these places, ~~that~~ in the Bible, we read rather briefly/^{told} what happened.

Here in ch. 37: ~~33~~33-35 is the Lord's promise, where He says what I just mentioned that they could live two yrs. from what they could get, and the 3rd yr. they would be able to plant vineyards and everything, that's in ch. 37:30. But in 37:33 he says, ~~Thy~~ Thus says the Lord concerning the King of Israel. He shall not come unto this city, nor shoot an arrow there nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it. And when he had done that to Lachish and taken Lachish, and Lachish is just a few miles away -- that was a tremendous prophecy to make. But he goes on -- "By the way that he came, by the same shall he return and not come unto this city saith the Lord, for I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake and for my