

† Isaiah



Summary

(2) The Holy Grantor of victory: (Chapters 36-39)

- Victory over enemies 36 - 37.
- Victory over death 38.
- Victory over the "ego" 39.

Monday (Read Isaiah 36)

Sennacherib, king of Assyria tries to scare the people against Hezekiah (the king of Judah) and telling them that God won't be able to protect them from his army. He tells them to surrender and be his captives.

Nowadays, that is how the devil works. He ridicules our belief, and insults it, trying to destroy our souls and make us lose faith in the Lord. He then pursues us and tries to make us captives of sins and habits.

St. John Chrysostom says:
"Nothing equals prayer! It makes the impossible possible, and the difficult easy. It is not possible for a man who prays, to fall easily into sin."



Tuesday (Read Isaiah 37)

Having listened to the ridicules of Sennacherib, Hezekiah tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the temple of the Lord. He sent messengers to the prophet Isaiah, asking for his prayers, and for the glorification of the name of the Lord. God intervened in the battle with His mighty arm. The angel of the Lord went out and put to death 185, 000 men in the Assyrian camp. Sennacherib, as well as his son Sherezer were killed, and Esarhaddon his son succeeded him as king.

St. John Chrysostom says, "Nothing equals prayer! It makes the impossible possible, and the difficult easy. It is not possible for a man who prays, to fall easily into sin"

Wednesday (Read Isaiah 38)

After telling us about the delivery of Jerusalem from the siege of Sennacherib the prophet Isaiah presents us with a narrative of the sickness of Hezekiah to the point of death, and his recovery. By that he probably intended to confirm that God cares, not only for the congregation as a whole (Judah), but also for every single member of it (Hezekiah). He cares for His holy Church, being His body, and, at the same time does not disregard its individual members. What an honour!

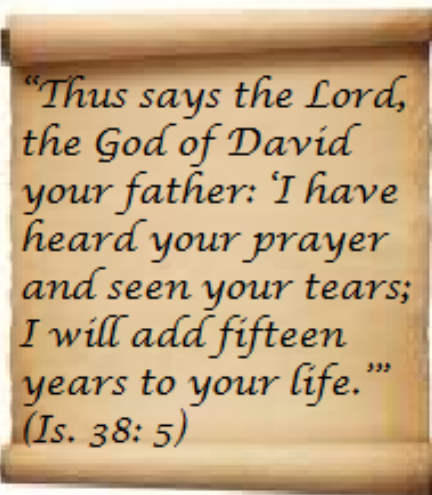
Isaiah 33:15

1. Walk righteously
2. Speak what is right
3. Reject gain from extortion
4. Keep hand from accepting bribes
5. Stop ears against plots of murder
6. Shut eyes against contemplating evil

Thursday (Read Isaiah 39)

This section of Isaiah's book sadly ended with the fall of Hezekiah in pride, displaying all his treasures and those of his Fathers to envoys from the king of Babylon, boastful of his richness and glory. That is why God ordered all of them to be carried off to Babylon.

As the star of Jerusalem started to shine, following the defeat of the king of Assyria, who used to terrify all nations; arrogance and haughtiness infiltrated into Hezekiah's heart, leading him to fall down into the abyss.



Did God change His mind by adding to Hezekiah's years?

Some say He did, whereas St. Augustine believes that God's decree was pre-known to Him before creation, kept in His divine will.

Either way, we should not concern ourselves, with whether God changed His mind, but rather with an apprehension of the power of prayer. Prayer, being an attachment to God, the grantor of life, is capable of everything, a conqueror of death - death of sin.

Prayer delivered

Noah from the great flood; cured from barrenness; defeated armies; proclaimed mysteries; divided the sea; cut off the water of the Jordan; drove back the sun; froze the moon; destroyed the unclean, and brought down fire. Prayer shut off heaven; released people out of prison, and rescued from the sea. Our righteous Fathers carried the weapon of prayer, and have overcome sorrows. Make the most of it!

Fr. Aphrahah



Friday & Saturday (Read Isaiah 40)

The Book of Isaiah started by revealing the extent of corruption that the people of God, as well as the whole humanity, have reached. Now, in the present chapter, the Holy Spirit lifts us up to discover God's plan of salvation, and His ordinance for His people, in order to enjoy His divine work. This chapter and the next one, aim to uproot the spirit of despair from the captives, and to implant that of hope in them. Remember, despair is a sin. The moment you fall into despair is the moment that you tell God "this problem is too big for You." God forbid!