Yeshayah 36-37 - Ravshakeih, Shevna, the Fall of Sancherev

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36:11-12 A failed attempt to keep things quiet

- 36:11 Why did they think Ravshakeih would go along with their request?
- 36:12 The "tzoah"
 - o Megilah 25b: The text is repellent, we read it positively
 - Shemuel I 5: The text is euphemistic, we read it negatively

36:13-20 Sancherev's message, Part 2

- Finally, blasphemy
- "A land like yours"

36:21-22 Reporting back to Chizkiyahu, with torn clothing

Shevna's Revolt

- Shevna vs Ravshakeih
- Two problems
 - o Didn't Yeshayah say to depose Shevna for self-aggrandizement back in 22:15-25?
 - o If the crime was treason here, why did Yeshayah say to depose Shevna back in 22:15-25?
- Four approaches (Tosafot Shabbat 12b)
 - These are two different people named Shevna
 - o Shevna was demoted to *sofer* after 22:15-25
 - o Chapter 36 happens before 22:15-25 but then what happened to Elyakim?
 - O Shevna was not demoted after 22:15-25; sofer is not a demotion

37:1-5 Chizkiyahu pleads with Yeshayah

- Almost word-for-word in Melachim II 19:1-5, but omitted in Divrei haYamim II 32
- 37:2 Sending messengers?
- The self-humbling of Chizkiyahu

37:6-7 Yeshayah's response: Calm down, it's all going according to plan

- Almost word-for-word in Melachim II 19:6-7, but omitted in Divrei haYamim II 32
- 37:7 Gd is playing a long game
- "Go tell your master"

37:8-13 Assyrian Insults III (from Livnah)

- Almost word-for-word in Melachim II 19:8-13, but omitted in Divrei haYamim II 32
- Don't kid yourself, Chizkiyahu; we'll be back

37:14-20 Chizkiyahu appeals to Hashem

- Almost word-for-word in Melachim II 19:14-19, all detail omitted in Divrei haYamim II 32:20.
- What is the goal of this prayer?
- What is the message of this prayer?

37:21-35 Yeshayah's response

- Almost word-for-word in Melachim II 19:20-34, all detail omitted in Divrei haYamim II 32:20.
- 37:21-29 Divine omniscience, mockery of Sancherev
- 37:30-32 A sign for Chizkiyahu

	When you see this sign	know that this will happen
Radak	Sancherev goes to fight Kush	Sancherev will be crushed, the land will be restored
Rashi	Sancherev is struck down	The land will produce and you will have enough food
Abarbanel	Sancherev is struck down	You will not need to fear future attack
Malbim	Produce returns	The remnant of Israel will return

37:36-38 Assyria Defeated

- Almost word-for-word in Melachim II 19:35-37, and in different words in Divrei haYamim II 32:21.
- "That night"
 - o Pesach, like in 30:29?
 - o Abarbanel Straight from the fight with the Ethiopians/Egyptians
- Why did Sancherev's sons kill him?
 - Standard revolt, also seen in Babylonian chronicles
 - o Kareit?
 - o Midrash cited in Abarbanel: To prevent him from sacrificing them (see Melachim II 3:26-27?)

Aftermath Divrei haYamim II 32:20-23 describes a utopian state

1. Talmud, Sanhedrin 94a

רב ושמואל חד אמר מלך פקח היה וחד אמר מלך טיפש היה למאן דאמר מלך פקח היה אי אמינא להו עדיפא מארעייכו אמרו קא משקרת ומאן דאמר מלך טיפש היה אם כן מאי רבותיה?

Rav and Shemuel debated: One said he was a wise king, the other said he was a foolish king.

- If he was a wise king: he thought, "If I tell them, 'It's better than your land,' they'll say I am lying."
- If he was a foolish king: [if they are equal], then what would be the advantage of that land?

2. Malbim to Yeshayah 37:14

ראה כי החרופים יצאו מן המלך בעצמו, וידע כי עתה תתקיים בו נבואת ישעיהו (למעלה י), לכן לא רצה להשלים ולהכנע רק לקחם אל בית ד' להתפלל:

He saw that the blasphemy came from the king himself, and he knew that now the prophecy of Yeshayah (Chapter 10) would be fulfilled against him. Therefore he did not wish to make peace and surrender; he only took [the scrolls] to the House of Gd to pray.

3. Abarbanel to Yeshayah 37:26

למה תתפאר על הצלחותיך במלחמות, הלא שמעת שאני עשיתי את כל זה וברצוני היתה הצלחתך, ולכן למרחוק הודעתיה ע"י עבדי הנביאים...

Why do you glory in your battlefield success? Have you not heard that I engineered all of this, and your success is at My will? Therefore I informed of it long ago, via My servants, the prophets...

4. Rabbi Elazar haKallir, אמרתם זבה פסח

עוד היום בנוב לעמוד עד געה עונת פסח

Yet today he will stand in Nov, until the time of Pesach arrives