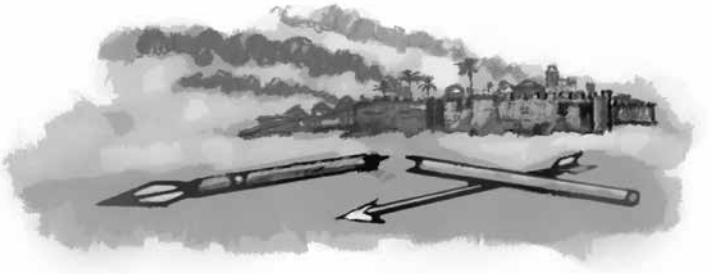
Isifundo 7

** 6–12 Februwari*

Ukoyiswa Kwama-Asiriya



SABATHA EMVA KWEMINI

Fundela Isifundo Sale Veki:
Isa. 36:1; Isa. 36:2–20; Isa. 36:21–37:20; Isa. 37:21–38; Isaya 38, 39.

Indima Yenkumbulo:
"Yehova wemikhosi, Thixo wakwaIsrayeli, wena uhleli phakathi kweekerubhi, unguye uThixo wena wedwa kwizikumkani zonke zehlabathi; wena ulenzile izulu nehlabathi" *(Isaya 37:16)*.

Indoda enqinileyo ihamba ngaphandle kwezihlangu noonyana bayo ababini. Olunye usapho luthwele konke elinako kwinqwelo etsalwa ziinkabi lo gama umfazi ehleli ngaphezulu. Abantu abangenanto abanayo inqwelo, ngoko bayithwala yonke into abanayo emagxeni abo. Amasoldati akho kuyo yonke indawo. Impongo elwayo igudluza isango lesixeko. Abatoli abahleli phezu kwempongo badubula abakhuseli phezu kweendonga. Kugquba umlo oshushu. Masithi tsi ngaphambili. Ukumkani uhlala kamnandi etroneni yakhe, esamkela amaxhoba nabathinjwa. Abanye abathinjwa beza kuye bephakamise izandla, bekhalela inceba. Abanye bayaguqa okanye barhubuluze. Ukuchazwa kwale miboniso kukumkani kuqala ngamazwi athi: "USenakeribhe, ukumkani wehlabathi, ukumkani weAsiriya" aqhube nezaci ezinje ngokuthi "wahlala kwi-nēmeduitrone aza amaxhoba esixeko iLakishe adlula eboniswa phambi kwakhe."—John Malcolm Russell, *The Writing on the Wall* (Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 1999), pp. 137, 138.

Olu luhlu lwemifanekiso, eyakha yahombisa iindonga ze"Bhotwe elingenantanga," likaSenaribhe, ngoku ekwiBritish Museum, enebali elithini ngoku enokulibalisa ngemeko yabantu ababebizwa ngoThixo!

**Funda isifundo sale veki ulungiselela iSabatha kaFebruwari 13.*

Ubukho Bezithintelo (Isa. 36:1)

Kwenzeka ntoni kuYuda? 2 Kumkani 18:13, 2 Kron. 32:1, Isa. 36:1.

Ngexesha lokufa kokumkani owayengathembekanga uAhazi nonyana wakhe owayethembekile uHezekiya wamlandela [etroneni], uHezekiya wafumana ilifa lobukumkani obabulahlekwe kukuzimela. Akuba ethenge ama-Asiriya ukuba amncede ngakuqhogano lweSiriya noIsrayeli wasemantla, uYuda wanyanzeleka ukuba aqhubeke nokuhlawula "imali yenkuseleko" eluhlobo lomnikelo kwiAsiriya (bona u-2 Kron. 28:16–21). Ngexesha lokufa kukakumkani uSargon kwithafa ledabi elikude waza walandelwa nguSenakeribhe ngowama-705 B.C., iAsiriya yabonakala inokubetheka lula. Ubungqina obufumaneka kwiindima zeAsiriya neBhayibhile buveza ukuba uHezikiya walinqakula eli thuba lokuvukela (bona: 2 Kumkani 18:7), ehamba phambili njengenkokeli yovukelo oluchase iAsiriya phakathi kwezizwe ezincinane kummandla wakhe. Ngelishwa lakhe, uHezekiya wayekuthabathe kancinane ukuqina kwamandla eAsiriya. Ngowe-701 B.C., akuba uSenakeribhe ezoyisile ezinye iindawo zobukumkani bakhe, wabetha iSiriya-Palestina ngomkhosi otshabalalisayo wamdlavula uYuda.

UHezekiya wakulungisela njani ukungqubana neAsiriya? 2 Kron. 32:1–8.

Wathi uHezekiya akubona ukuba uSenakeribhe uzimisele ukuyithabatha iYerusalem, isixeko esiyintloko, wenza amalungiselelo abanzi okungqubana nayo iAsiriya. Waziqinisa iinqaba zakhe, wongeza izixhobo nokulungisa umkhosi wakhe, wandisa ukhuseleko lokuzuzwa kwamanzi eYerusalem (bona naku- 2 Kumkani 20:20, 2 Kron. 32:30). Ijelo lamanzi abalulekileyo eSilowa elalikhunjulwa ngombhalo oxela ngendlela owawakhiwe ngayo, lingaphantsa ukuba lelexesha lokulungisela kukaHezekiya ungqingo olunamandla.

Kanye njengokuba kubaluleke njengomkhosi nobukhokeli bokulungisa, uHezekiya wasebenzisa ubukhokeli basemoyeni njengoko wayefuna ukukhulisa ukuziphatha kwabantu bakhe ngeli xesha loyikisayo. "Noko kunjalo, ukumkani wakwaYuda wazimisela ukuyenza eyakhe indawo yokumelana notshaba; wathi, akuba ekufezile konke okunokwenziwa bubulumko namandla omntu, waba ehlanganise imikhosi yakhe kwaye eyikhuthazile ukuba yomelele." —Ellen G. White, *Abaprofeti Nookumkani*, iph. 351.

Ukuba uHezekiya wayethembele kuYehova kangaka, kwakutheni ukuze enze umzamo omkhulu kangako ngokwakhe? Ingaba imisebenzi yakhe yayilukhanyela ukholo lwakhe? Bona kuFilipu 2:12, 13 ngokusebenzisana noThixo, onika amandla ayimpumelelo ngenene.

Ukuhanjiswa Kweendaba (Isa. 36:2–20)

Abalawuli beAsiriya babenganele kubandlongondlongo kuphela, babe nabo nobuchopho. Umgomo wabo wawububutyebi negunya, hayi intshabalalo kuphela (thelekisa uIsa. 10:13, 14). Yintoni eyenza ukuba kusetyenziswe izixhobo ukuthabatha ngamandla isixeko xa kunokusuka kukhuthazwe abemi ukuba bazinikele? Ngoko ke, ngexesha wayexakeke ekungqingeni iLakishe, uSenakeribhe wathumela irabshakeh [igosa eliphezulu] yakhe ukuba iyithabathe iYerusalem ngeendaba.

Zithini iintetho ezasetyenziswa yirabshakeh ukoyikisa uYuda? Isa. 36:2–20, khangela naku-2 Kumkani 18:17–35, 2 Kron. 32:9–19.

Irabshakeh yenza iintetho noko ezinamandla. Akukwazi ukuthembela kwiYiputa ukuba ikuncede kuba ayinamandla kwaye ayithembekanga. Akunako ukuxhomekeka kuYehova ukuba akuncede kuba uHezekiya umonile ngokususa iindawo zaKhe eziphezulu nezibingelelo eYerusalem. Kanti ke, uYehova ungakwicala leAsiriya waza wamxelela uSenakeribhe ukuba amtshabalalise uYuda. Akunawo namadoda awaneleyo aqeqeshiweyo ukuba amelane namahashe angama-2 000. Ukuze usinde ekungqingweni oya kuthi kulo ungabi nanto yokutya nokusela, nikezela ngoku, uya kuphathwa kakuhle. UHezekiya akanako ukukusindisa, kwaye ngenxa yokuba oothixo bazo zonke ezinye izizwe ezoyiswa yiAsiriya bengazisindisanga, ungaqiniseka ukuba uThixo wakho akayi kukusindisa nawe, ngokufanayo.

Ingaba irabshakeh yayithetha inyaniso?

Ngenxa yokuba kwakukho inyaniso eninzi kwinto eyayiyithetha, iintetho zayo zazisoyisa. Ukuyixhasa kwakukho iintetho ezimbini ezingazange zithethwe. Okokuqala, wayesanda kuvelaeLakishe,engama-30eemayileukubakude,aphoama-Asiriyaayebonisaokwenzekayo kwisixeko esinqatyiswe kakhulu esazama ukumelana nawo. Okwesibini, wayeneqela elikhulu lomkhosi wama-Asiriya elikunye naye (Isa. 36:2). Ngokwazi isiphelo semikhosi nezixeko kwezinye iindawo (kuquka iSamariya, isixeko esiyintloko kuIsrayeli ongasentla: 2 Kumkani 18:9, 10) ezoyiswayo yiAsiriya, kwakungekho mYuda owayenokuthandabuza ukuba, ngokwembono yomntu, iYerusalem yayibekelwe intshabalalo (thelekisa uIsa. 10:8–11). Irabshakeh yayikwanyanisile ngokuthi uHezekiya wazitshabalalisa iindawo eziliqela zokubingelela ukuze unqulo lube kwindawo enye etempileni eYerusalem (2 Kumkani 18:4, 2 Kron. 31:1). Ukuba olu hlaziyo lwamona uThixo, ngubani ithemba ekuphela kwalo kubantu baKhe elishiyekileyo? Ingaba Yena [angabasindisa na], angakwazi Yena [ukubasindisa na]? Kwakuxhomekeke kuThixo ukuwuphendula lo mbuzo!

Lwesibini

9 Februwari

Ukothuswa Kodwa Ungashiywa
(Isa. 36:21–37:20)

Intetho enobuchule yerabshakeh yachukumisa njani uHezekiya namagosa wakhe? 2 Kumkani 18:37–19:4, Isa. 36:21–37:4.

Othuke kwathi xhokro embilinini, ekhala luxinzelelo, uHezekiya wabhenela kuThixo, ngokuzithoba efuna intethelelo kaIsaya, kwayena lo mprofeti ocebo lakhe walityeshelayo uyise.

UThixo wamkhuthaza njani uHezekiya? Isa. 37:5–7.

Isigidimi asisifutshane, kodwa sanele.UThixo wayengakwicala labantu baKhe. UIsaya wayexele kwantlandlolo ukuba uSenakeribhe wayeza kuwava amarhe aya kumsusa kuye ekuhlaseleni kwakhe uYuda. Oku kwaya kwazaliseka kwakamsinyane. Akuba ephoxekile okwexesha elithile, kodwa engazimisele ukuncama kuphele, uSenakeribhe wathumela kuHezekiya isigidimi esoyikisayo: "Makangakulukuhli uThixo wakho, okholose ngaye wena, usithi, Ayisayi kunikelwa iYerusalem esandleni sokumkani waseAsiriya. . . . Oothixo beentlanga ke bazihlangula na?" (Isa. 37:10, 12; khangela naku-2 Kron. 32:17). Ngeli xesha uHezekiya waya ngqo etempileni wasandlala isigidimi phambi koYehova wemikhosi, "uhleli phakathi kweekerubhi" (Isa. 37:14–16).

Umthandazo kaHezekiya ukuchaze njani okwakusesichengeni kwintlekele yaseYerusalem? Isa. 37:15–20.

USenakeribhe wasihlasela ngqo esona sikhuselo someleleyo sikaHezekiya: ukholo lwakhe kuThixo wakhe. Kunokuba athobe phantsi, uHezekiya wakhala kuThixo ukuba abonise ukuba ungubani [uThixo], ukuze "zazi zonke izikumkani zehlabathi, ukuba wena unguYehova wedwa" (Isa. 37:20).

Funda uthandaza umthandazo kaHezekiya (Isa. 37:15–20). Yeyiphi imiba engoThixo aqwalasela yona? Uthini umthetho-siseko esiwubonayo kulo mthandazo onokusinika inkuthazo namandla okuhlala sithembekile nakwiintlekele esijongene nazo thina ngokwethu?

Lwesithathu

10 Februwari

Ukugqityezelwa Kwebali (Isa. 37:21–38)

NgokukaSenakeribhe, ngokutsho kweembali, wathimba ama-46 eedolophu ezinqatyisiweyo, wayingqinga iYerusalem, uHezekiya umYuda wamenza "ibanjwa eYerusalem, kwikhaya lakhe lobukhosi, njengentaka evalelwe endlwini yentaka."—Jacob B. Pritchard, editor, Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1969), p. 288. Kanti ke, nangona wayezithanda iindaba zokuphakanyiswa kwegama lakhe, ayikho incwadi okanye imifanekiso apho athi wayithabatha iYerusalem. Ngokwembono yomntu, oku kungabikho kwezi ndaba kuyamangalisa, njengoko wayenamandla amakhulu kakhulu kwanokuba uHezekiya wakhokela uvukelo lokumchasa yena. Abavukeli ngakwiAsiriya babelindele izinto ezingenamxhelo kwakunye nokufa okumasikizi kakhulu. Iimfundimani ziyavuma ukuba, nokuba besingenayo ingxelo yeBhayibhile, besiza kunyanzeleka ukuba sivume ukuba ummangaliso unokuba wenzeka. Kwaukuba uSenakeribhe akrozise ezindongeni ze"Bhotwe Elingenantanga" lakhe ngemifanekiso eqoqiweyo ebonisa ngokucacileyo ukungqinga kwakhe ngempumelelo iLakishe kubonakala kungokuba wayenentswelo yento angazigwagwisa ngayo. Kanti ke, ngenxa yobabalo lukaThixo, le mifanekiso yayiza kusuka iveze iYerusalem! USenakeribhe akazange alixele lonke ibali, kodwa iBhayibile yona iyasixela.

Sithini isiphelo sebali? Isa. 37:21–37.

Ukusabela kumthandazo kaHezekiya wokholo olupheleleyo, uThixo wamthumela isigidimi sengqinisekiso ephaleleyo ephuphuma yingqumbo yesinyithi ngakukumkani onekratshi waseAsiriya owaba nesibindi sokuqhwaba ngempama uKumkani wookumkani wezulu (Isa. 37:23). Ngenxa yoko, uThixo wakhawuleza wasizalisekisa kwangoko isithembiso sokuyikhusela iYerusalem (2 Kumkani 19:35–37; 2 Kron. 32:21, 22; Isa. 37:36–38). Intlekele enkulu ifuna ummangaliso omkhulu, waza wamkhulu ngokwenene. Ababalwayo babengama-185,000. Ngenxa yoko, uSenakeribhe akazange abe nakunceda ngaphandle kokuba abuyele ekhaya, apho wafika wafa khona (thelekisa okuxelwa kwangaphambili nguIsaya kuIsa. 37:7–38). "UThixo wamaHebhere wamoyisa umAsiriya owayenekratshi. Uzuko lukaYehova lwaphindezelwa emehlweni ezizwe ezingqongileyo. EYerusalem iintliziyo zabantu zazaliswa luvuyo olungcwele." —Ellen G. White, *Abaprofeti Nookumkani,* iph. 361. Kwakhona, ukuba uSenakeribhe wayeyoyisile iYerusalem, wayeza kubagxotha abantu ngendlela eyayizakwenza uYuda alahlekwe kukuba nokuzazi, njengoko kwenzeka kuIsrayeli welasentla. Kwelinye icala, kanti, ngebabengekho abantu bakwaYuda awayeza kuzalwa kubo uMesiya. Ibali labo ngelaphela kuloo ndawo. UThixo waligcina liphilile ithemba.

Uthini emntwini othi, engekayikholelwa iBhayibhile okanye uThixo weBhayibhile, abuze lo mbuzo: Ingaba kwakukuhle na ukuba la masoldati aseAsiriya, ekwenzeka ukuba azalelwe apho wayezalelwe khona, afe wonke ngolu hlobo? Wena ngokwakho uzibona njani izenzo zikaThixo apha?

Lwesine

11 Februwari

Ekuguleni Nasebutyebini (Isaya 38, 39)

Iziganeko zikaIsaya 38 nama-39 (2 Kumkani 20) zenzeka kufutshane kakhulu kwixesha uThixo wakhulula ngalo uHezekiya kuSenakeribhe, nangona ukuhlangulwa oko, njengoko kuzotywe kuIsaya 37 (bona naku-2 Kumkani 19) kwakungekenzeki. Ngokwenene, uIsaya 38:5, 6 no-2 Kumkani 20:6 zibonisa ukuba uHezekiya wayesajongene nokoyikisa kweAsiriya. "USathana wayezimisele ukuzisa kokubini, ukufa kuHezekiya nokuwa kweYerusalem, enesizathu esithi, uHezekiya wayephumile endleleni, imizamo yakhe yohlaziyo yayiza kuphela ukuze ukuwa kweYerusalem kube nokufezwa ngokukhawuleza."—*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 240.

Sisixelela ntoni esi sicatshulwa singentla ngokubaluleka kobukhokeli obulungileyo kubantu bakaThixo?

Mqondiso mni uYehova awawunika uHezekiya ukuqinisa ukholo lwaKhe? 2 Kumkani 20:8–10; Isa. 38:6–8.

Ngokwala imiqondiso kaThixo (Isaya 7), uAhazi waqala ikhondo leziganeko ezakhokelela ekuhlutshweni yiAsiriya. Noko kunjalo, ngoku uHezekiya wacela umqondiso (2 Kumkani 20:8); ngoko ke, uThixo wamomeleza ukuba amelane nentlekele uyise awayizisa phezu kukaYuda. Ngokwenene, ukubuya umva kwesithunzi kwiSUNDIAL [uthunzana] ka-Ahazi kwabakho kuphela ngommangaliso.AmaBhabheli ayekufunde kakuhle ukuhamba kweziqu zasemazulwini aye ekubhale phantsi ngocoselelo. Ngenxa yoko, ngewayeyiqaphele kakuhle ihambo engaqhelekanga yelanga aze amangale ukuba ithetha ntoni. Into yokuba ukumkani uMerodaki-bhaladan athumele abameli ngeli xesha ayiyongozi. AmaBhabheli ayefundile ngoqhagamshelano phakathi kokuphila kukaHezekiya nomqondiso ongumangaliso. Ngoku siyazi ukuba kwakutheni ukuze uThixo asebenzise lo umqondiso. Kanye, njengokuba inkwenkwezi iphuma eBhetelehem ukuba izise izazi ezivela eMpuma, wasebenzisa ukusunduza ilanga ukuzisa abathunywa abavela eBhabheli. Oku kwakulithuba elilodwa kubo ukuba bafunde ngoThixo oyinyaniso. UMerodach-baladan wachitha ubizo lwakhe lonke ezama ukuzuza ukuzimela okungapheliyo kweAsiriya. Wayedinga abaxhasi abanamandla, nto leyo echaza inkuthazo yakhe ngokuthetha noHezekiya. Ukuba ilanga ngokwalo lalihambile ngokwesicelo sikaHezekiya, wayeya kuyenza ntoni iAsiriya?

UHezekiya walahlekwa njani lithuba lokuzukisa uThixo awalathise kuYe amaBhabheli? Saba yintoni isiphumo? Isaya 39. UHezekiya, owayefanele ukuba wangqina kuwo ngoYehova, walatha, endaweni yoko, kolwakhe "uzuko." Sithini isifundo thina esisifumanayo apha?

Ingcamango Eyongeziweyo:

"Kuphela ngokungenelela kukaThixo esinokuthi isithunzi kuthunzana (sundial) sibe nokwenziwa sibuye umva izinyuko ezilishumi; kwaye lo yayiza kuba ngumqondiso kuHezekiya wokuba uYehova wawuva umthandazo wakhe. Ngokwenene, "umprofeti wamnqula uYehova, wasibuyisa umva isithunzi izinyuko zalishumi, esasihle zona esinyukweni sika-Ahazi." Iindima 8-11."—Ellen G. White, *Abaprofeti Nookumkani*, p. 342. "Utyelelo lwaba bathunywa bavela kumlawuli welizwe elikude, lwamnika uHezekiya ithuba lokuphakamisa uThixo ophilileyo. Kwakuya kuba lula kangakanani kuye ukuba wayebaxelele ngoThixo, umphakamisi wazo zonke izinto ezidaliweyo, nokungenxa yothando lwaKhe ekuthe obakhe ubomi basindiswa xa lalise labaleka lemka lonke elinye ithemba!. . . "Noko kunjalo, ikratshi nokuzingca kwayithimba intliziyo kaHezekiya, kwathi ekuziphakamiseni, watyhilela amehlo abawayo iindyebo uThixo awamtyebisa ngazo abantu baKhe. Ukumkani "wababonisa indlu yakhe yezinto aziqwebileyo: silivere, negolide nobulawu, neoli entle, nendlu yonke yezixhobo zakhe, nento yonke ebikho ebuncwaneni bakhe. Akwabakho nto endlwini yakhe nasekulawuleni kwakhe konke, angababonisanga yona uHezekiya." Isaya 39:2. Akakwenzelanga ukuzukisa uThixo oku, kodwa ukuziphakamisa emehlweni ezikhulu zasemzini."—*Amaphepha* 344, 345.

Imibuzo Yokuxoxwa:

1. Ufana njani uSathana nerabshakeh yaseAsiriya? Ingaba uthetha inyaniso xa athi wonile (Zek. 3:1)? Uthini ukuphendula uThixo? Bona uZek. 3:2–5. Lithini ithemba lakho ekuphela kwalo ngakwezi zimangalo? Roma 8:1.

2. Angaba uSathana uyaziyeka izityholo zakhe wakuba uxolelwe? Bona IsiTyh. 12:10. Emva kokuba uxolelwe, uSathana uqhubeka esithi ungowakhe ngenxa yesono sakho, siluhlobo luni isityholo sakhe? Bona uDut. 19:16–21 (umthetho wengqina elixokayo elinobubi).

Isishwankathelo: Ukusabela kwisikhalo sokumkani othembekileyo, uThixo wabasindisa abantu baKhe wabonisa ukuba ungubani: ukumkani kaIsrayeli onamandla onke, olawula isiphelo somhlaba; onganeli kutshabalalisa abo bazama ukutshabalalisa abantu baKhe, ukwanika amathuba abanye, nokuba iza njani "iBhabheli," ukuba babe ngabantu baKhe.