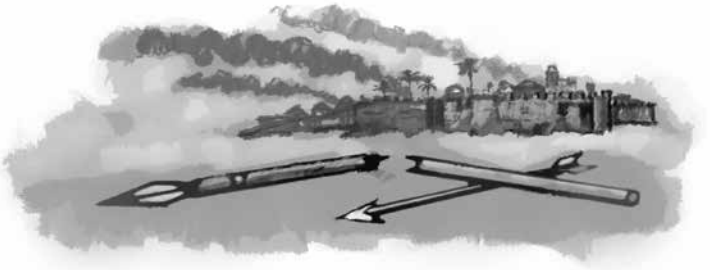
Isifundo 7

** 6–12 Nhlolanja*

Ukunqotshwa Kwabase Asiriya



NgeSabatha Ntambama

Kuleliviki funda ku:
Isaya 36:1, Isaya 36:2-20; Isaya 36:21-37:20; Isaya 37:21-38, Isaya 38, 39.

Indimana Yekhanda:
"'Jehova Sebawoti, Nkulunkulu ka-Israyeli, ohlezi phezu kwamakherubi, Wena unguNkulunkulu, Wena wedwa, wemibuso yonke yomhlaba, Wena wenzile izulu nomhlaba' " *(Isaya 37:16, NRSV)*.

Indoda ekhandlekile yayihamba namadodana ayo amabili engagqoke zicathulo. Omunye umndeni wawusanda kulayisha zonke izimpahla zawo enqoleni edonswa yizinkabi ezizacile. Kukhona indoda edonsa izinkabi ngesikhathi abesimame ababili behlizi enqoleni. Abantu abahluphekayo abanayo inqola, kanjalo-ke bathwala izimpahla zabo emahlombe. Kugcwele amasosha yonke indawo. Kudilizwa isango lomuzi. Abacibisheli bacibishela labo abavikela udonga. Kuyafiwa.

Asidlulele phambili. Inkosi ihlezi kamnandi esihlalweni sobukhosi, yamukela impango nabathunjwa. Abanye abathunjwa beza kuyo sebephakamise izandla, bezincengela. Abanye bayaguqa noma bayakhothama. Ukuchazwa kwemibono enje nenkosi iqala ngalamazwi: "USenakheribhu, inkosi yomhlaba, inkosi yaseAsiriya" kuqhubeke ngamazwi afana nokuthi "wayehlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi, kwase kudluliswa phambi kwakhe impango yaseLakhishi."—John Malcolm Russell, *The Writing on the Wall* (Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 1999), pp. 137, 138. Loluchungechunge lwezithombe, ezake zahlobisa izindonga "zesigodlo sikaSenakheribhu esasaziwa ngokuthi asinambangi, manje zisendaweni yokugcina amagugu eBrithani, zihambisana nomlando ngalabo abazibiza ngabantu bakaNkulunkulu!

**Funda isifundo saleliviki ukulungisela iSabatha lika Nhlolanja 13.*

Kunemibandela (Isaya 36:1)

Kwenzekani kuJuda? 2 Amakhosi 18:13, 2 Izikronike 32:1, Isaya 36:1.

Ngokufa kuka Ahazi owayengakholwa sekuthatha indodana yakhe ethembekile uHezekiya embusweni, uHezekiya wadla ifa lombuso owawusulahlekelwe ukuzimela okuphelele. Njengoba wayekade ekhokhele ukusizwa yiAsiriya ekulweni neSiriya noIsrayeli waseNyakatho, uJuda waphoqeleka ukuthi aqhubeke nokukhokha imali yokuvikelwa kuAsiriya (2 Izikronike 28:16-21). Ngokufa kwenkosi yaseAsiriya uSargoni empini ezweni elikude, sekuthatha uSenakheribhu ngo 705 B.C., iAsiriya labukeka lubuthakathaka. Ubufakazi obuvela eAsiriya kanye nokulotshwe eBhayibhelini butshengisa ukuthi uHezekiya wasebenzisa lelithuba ukuze embuke (2 Amakhosi 18:7), ehola izizwe ezincanyana esifundeni sakhe ukuba zivukele iAsiriya. Ngeshwa lakhe, uHezekiya wayewathathe kancane amandla eAsiriya. Ngo 701 B.C., uSenakheribhu esezithobisile ezinye izifunda zombuso wakhe, wahlasela iSiriya-Phalestina ngamandla asabekayo, wachitha elakwaJuda.

UHezekiya wazilungisela kanjani nokulwa neAsiriya? 2 Izikronike 32:1-8.

Kuthe lapho uHezekiya ebona ukuthi uSenakheribhu uzimisele ngokuthatha iJerusalema, umuzi omkhulu, wenza amalungiselelo abanzi ukuze anqwamane neAsiriya, wahlela impi yakhe, waqinisa ukuvikeleka komthombo wamanzi aseJerusalema (bheka naku 2 Amakhosi 20:20, 2 Izikronike 32:30). Lomhosha wodumo, iSilowamu, okunombhalo ochaza ngokwakhiwa kwawo, cishe impela usukela kuleso sikhathi uHezekiya elungisela lokho kuhlaselwa. Ngendlela akubona kubalulekile ukuzicijela impi nokuzihlela, uHezekiya watshengisa ubuholi nakwezenkolo ngesikhathi ezama ukukhuthaza isizwe sakhe ngalesikhathi esesabekayo. “Kodwa inkosi yakwaJuda yayizimisele ukwenza indima yayo ukulungisela ukumelana nesitha; futhi isikwenzile konke okungenziwa amandla nokuhlakanipha komuntu, yayihlanganise amabutho ayo, yawanxusa ukuba abe nesibindi.”—Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings,* p. 351.

Uma uHezekiya wayethemba uNkulunkulu kangaka, wayeyenzelani eyakhe imizamo engaka? Ngabe imisebenzi yakhe yayiphikisa ukukholwa kwakhe? Beka kwabaseFilipi 2:12, 13 mayelana nokubambisana noNkulunkulu okunguYena ohlinzeka ngamandla asebenza ngempela.

Impi Yamazwi (Isaya 36:2-20)

Ababusi baseAsiriya babengagcini ngokuba nesihluku-nje, babehlakaniphile. Umgomo wabo kwaku ukuthola umcebo namandla, hhayi ukubhubhisa kuphela (qhathanisa noIsaya 10:13, 14). Usebenziselani imali namabutho ukunqoba umuzi uma ungaba nakho ukubenza bazinikele ngaphandle kwempi? Kanjalo-ke, ngaso leso sikhathi ehanqe iLakhishi, uSenakheribhu wathumela i-rabshekha, isikhulu esiphezulu, ukuba sinqobe iJerusalema ngempi yamazwi.

Yasebenzisa mazwi mani i-rabushekha ukwesabisa uJuda? Isaya 36:2-20, bheka namaKhosi 18:17-35, 2 Izikronike 32:9-19.

Irabshekha yakhuluma amazwi anesisindo. Anikwazi ukwethembela eGibhithe ngoba libuthakathaka futhi alethembakali. Anikwazi ukwethemba ukuthi uNkulunkulu uzonisiza ngoba uHezekiya umthukuthelisile ngokususa izindawo zaKhe eziphakeme nama-altare kulo lonke elakwaJuda, etshela abantu ukuthi abakhonze eltare elilodwa, eJerusalema. Empeleni uNkulunkulu ungasohlangothini lweAsiriya, utshele uSenakheribhu ukuthi akabhubhise elakwaJuda. Aninabo nabantu abenele ukugibela amahhashi angu 2 000. Ukuze nigweme isimo sokuthi nihanqwe, ningabi nakudla namanzi, zinikeleni manje khona niyakuphathwa kahle. UHezekiya akakwazi ukunihlangula, futhi ngoba onkulunkulu bazo zonke izizwe ezanqotshwa yiAsiriya abazihlangulanga, ningaqiniseka ukuthi nowenu uNkulunkulu ngeke anihlangule.

Yayikhuluma iqiniso yini irabushekha?

Ngenxa yokuthi kwakukuningi okuyiqiniso kulokho okwakushiwo yirabushekha, amazwi ayo ayenesisindo. Yayesekelwa yizinkulumo ezimbili ezingaphimiselwe. Eyokuqala, yayisanda kubuya eLakhishi, eyayikude ngamamayela angu 30, lapho ama-Asiriya ayetshengisa okwenzeke emzini obiyelwe, onezinqaba, uma uzama ukumelana nabo. Eyesibili, wayenamabutho amaningi ayehamba naye (Isaya 36:2). Ngokwazi okwenzeka emabuthweni nemizi kwezinye izindawo (okuhlanganisa neSamariya, ikomkhulo likaIsrayeli waseNyakatho: 2 Amakhosi 18:9, 10) ayenqontshwe yiAsiriya, akukho muntu wakwaJuda owayengaba nesizathu sokungabaza ukuthi ngokubuka kweso lomuntu iJerusalema lalisenkingeni yokubhujiswa (qhathanisa Isaya 10:8-11). Irabushekha yayiqinisile futhi mayithi uHezekiya wacekela phansi izindawo zokwenza imihlatshelo ukuze kukhonzwe kuphela ethempelini eliseJerusalema (2 Amakhosi 18:4; 2 Izikronike 31:1). Kodwa ukuba leyo mvuselelo yathukuthelisa uNkulunkulu, ubani kuphela ithemba elalisele labantu baKhe? Wayezobahlangula yini, wayenakho yini ukubahlangula? Kwakuyilungelo likaNkulunkulu ukuphendula lombuzo!

Bazanyazanyisiwe kodwa Abashiyiwe
(Isaya 36:21-37:20)

Inkulumo yobugagu yerabushekha yaba namthelela muni kuHezekiya nezikhulu zakhe? 2 Amakhosi 1:37-19:4, Isaya 36:21-37:4.

KuHezekiya kwase kuphele nasozanweni, ekhala, waphendukela kuNkulunkulu, ngokuzithoba efuna ukunxuselwa nguIsaya, yena lomprofethi owanikeza ngezeluleko ezinganakwanga uyise.

UNkulunkulu wamkhuthaza kanjani uHezekiya na? Isaya 37:5-7.

Umlayezo wawumfishane, kodwa wawanele. UNkulunkulu wayesohlangothini lwabantu baKhe. UIsaya waprofetha ukuthi uSenakheribhu wayezokuzwa ukuvungazela okwakuzosusa umqondo wakhe ekuhlaseleni uJuda. Lokho kwagcwaliseka ngokushesha. USenakheribhu wake wathi ukudideka okwesikhashana, kodwa akawulahlanga umqondo wokuhlasela iJerusalema, wathumela umlayezo wokwesabisa uHezekiya othi: “Ungavumeli loNkulunkulu owethembele kuYe akukhohlise ngokukwethembisa ukuthi iJerusalema ngeke linikelwe ezandleni zenkosi yaseAsiriya....Onkulunkulu bezizwe bake bazisindisa yini? (Isaya 37:10, 12, NRSV; bheka ne 2 Izikronike 32:17). Ngalesikhathi uHezekiya waya-ngqo ethempelini, wendlala umlayezo phambi kukaJehova wamabandla, “‘osesihlalweni esingaphezu kwamakherubhi’ “ (Isaya 37:14-16, NRSV).

Umthandazo kaHezekiya wakuveza kanjani okuyikona okwakuyingqikithi yalesimo esibucayi eJerusalema? Isaya 37:15-20.

USenakheribhu wayehlasele ngokusobala isivikelo sikaHezekiya okuyisona esinamandla kakhulu: ukukholwa kuNkulunkulu wakhe. Kunokuba axege amadolo, uHezekiya wanxusa uNkulunkulu ukuba azibonakalise ukuthi ungubani, “ ‘ ukuze yonke imibuso yomhlaba yazi ukuthi Wena wedwa unguJehova’ “ (Isaya 37:20, NRSV).

Funda ngomthandazo, umthandazo kaHezekiya (Isaya 37:15-20). Ugxila kuyiphi imikhakha kaNkulunkulu? Sibona zimiso zini kulomthandazo okungasinika ukukhuthazeka namandla okuhlala sethembekile uma sifikelwa ezethu izikhathi ezibucayi?

Isiphetho Sendaba (Isaya 37:21-38)

Ngokusho kukaSenakheribhu, njengoba kubikwa emlandweni wakhe, wadla amadolobha angu 46 ahlonyisiwe, wahanqa iJerusalema, wenza uHezekiya umJuda "isiboshwa eJerusalema umuzi wakhe, njengenyoni evalelwe ekhejini."—James B. Pritchard, editor, Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1969), p. 288. Kodwa phezu kothando lwakhe lokusebenzisa amazwi ukuzikhukhumeza, akukho mbhalo noma zithombe lapho esho khona ukuthi walidla iJerusalema. Ngokubuka kwabantu, kuyamangalisa ukuthi akubhaliwe lokho uma sicabanga ngamandla kaSenakheribhu, nokuthi uHezekiya wahola amambuka ayemelene naye. Abavukeli bombuso waseAsiriya babengaphili isikhathi eside, kanti babebulawa kabuhlungu. Abacwaningi bayavuma ukuthi noma ngabe sasingenakho okubhalwe eBhayibhelini, sasizophoqeka ukuvuma ukuthi kwenzeka isimangaliso. Kukodwa-nje ukuthi uSenakheribhu wanameka ezindongeni zesigodlo sakhe esaziwa ngokuthi "asinambangi," izithombe zokunqoba kwakhe iLakhishi, kubonakala kuyisenzo sokuvala ihlazo. Ukuba kwakungewona umusa kaNkulunkulu, lezo zithombe ngabe zatshengisa iJerusalema esikhundleni seLakhishi! USenakheribhu akayixoxanga yonke indaba, kodwa iBhayibheli liyayixoxa.

Sithini isiphetho sendaba? Isaya 37:21-37.

Ephendula umthandazo kaHezekiya wokukholwa, uNkulunkulu wamthumela umlayezo wesiqinisekiso uJuda ukuthi ulaka lwaKhe luzovuthela lenkosi yaseAsiriya eziphakamise ngokuthi izame ukushaya iNkosi yamakhosi ngempama (Isaya 37:23). UNkulunkulu wasuka wasigcwalisa ngokushesha isithembiso saKhe sokuvikela iJerusalema (2 Amakhosi 19:35-37; 2 Izikronike 32:21, 22; Isaya 37:36-38). Isimo esibucayi esikhulu, sidinga isimangaliso esikhulu, kanti nangempela saba sikhulu. Zaziningi izidumbu: 185 000. Kanjalo-ke uSenakheribhu akukho ayengakwenza ngaphandle kokuthi aphindele ekhaya, lapho wahlangabezana nokufa kwakhe khona (qhathanisa nesiprofetho sikaIsaya kuIsaya 37:7-38). "UNkulunkulu wamaHeberu wanqoba lomAsiriya oziphakamisile. Isithunzi sikaJehova sabuyiselwa emehlweni ezizwe ezingomakhelwane. EJerusalema izinhliziyo zabantu zagcwala injabulo."—Ellen G. White, Prophets and Kings, p. 361. Futhi-ke, ukuba uSenakheribhu wayelinqobile iJerusalema, wayezodingisa abantu ngendlela yokuthi uJuda wayezolahlekelwa ubuzwe bakhe njengoba kwenzeka kuIsrayeli waseNyakatho. Ngenye indlela-ke, sasingeke sibe khona isizwe samaJuda okwakuzophuma kuso uMesiya. Umlando wabo wawuzophelela khona lapho. Kodwa uNkulunkulu waligcina liphila ithemba.

Uthini kumuntu ongalikholwa iBhayibheli noNkulunkulu weBhayibheli uma ebuza ethi: "Kwakunobulungiswa yini ukuthi lamasosha aseAsiriya azithola ezelwe lapho azalelwa khona, afe ngobuningi bawo obungaka? Wena ngokwakho, ukuzwa kanjani okwenziwa uNkulunkulu lapha?

Ekuguleni Nasekunethezekeni (Isaya 38, 39)

Izigameko zikaIsaya 38 no 39 (2 Amakhosi 20) zenzeka sekuzophela isikhathi lapho uNkulunkulu akhulula khona uHezekiya kuSenakheribhu, nakuba lokho kukhululwa esifunda ngakho esahlukweni 37 (bheka no 2 Amakhosi 19) kwakungakenzeki. Yebo, uIsaya 38:5, 6 no 2 Amakhosi 20:6 ubonakalisa ukuthi babesabhekene nengozi yaseAsiriya. "USathane wayezimisela ukubulala uHezekiya nokuchitha iJerusalema, ecabanga ukuthi uma engagudluza uHezekiya, imizamo yakhe yokuletha imvuselelo kwaJuda izophela, bese liwa kalula iJerusalelma."—*The SDA Bible Commentary,* vol. 4, p. 240.

Lesicaphuno esingenhla sisitshelani ngokubaluleka kobuholi obuhle phakathi kwabantu bakaNkulunkulu?

UNkulunkulu wanika uHezikiya siphi isibonakaliso sokuqinisa ukukholwa kwakhe? 2 Amakhosi 20:8-10; Isaya 38:6-8.

Ngokwenqaba izibonakaliso aziphiwa nguNkulunkulu (Isaya 7), uAhazi wayeseqale indlela ezoholela ekungquzulaneni neAsiriya. Kodwa manje uHezekiya ucela isibonakaliso (2 Amakhosi 20:8); ngakhoke uNkulunkulu wamupha amandla okubhekana nesimo esibucayi esalethwa nguyise phezu kukaJuda. Nebala, ukuhlehlisa isithunzi esikalini sika-Ahazi kwakungenzeka ngesimangaliso kuphela. AbaseBhabhiloni babefunda ngezinkanyezi, ilanga, nenyanga, bebhala phansi ngokucophelela iminyakazo yazo. Ngakhoke, babona okungajwayelekile elangeni, bamangala ukuthi kusho ukuthini. Ukuthi uMerodakhi-Baladani wathumela amanxusa ngalesikhathi, akulona iphutha. AbaseBhabhiloni babezwile ngokuxhumana kokuphulukiswa kukaHezekiya nalesibonakaliso esiyisimanga. Manje sesiyazi ukuthi kungani uNkulunkulu akhetha lesibonakaliso. Njengoba kamuva wasebenzisa inkanyezi yaseBethelehema ukuletha izazi ezivela eMpumalanga, wasebenzisa inguquko yelanga ukuletha izithunywa ezivela eBhabhiloni. Leli kwakuyithuba labo elingavamile lokufunda ngoNkulunkulu weqiniso. UMerodach-baladani wachitha iminyaka yakhe yonke yobukhosi ezama ukuzuza inkululeko ekuphathweni yiAsiriya. Wayedinga azosebenzisana nabo abanamandla, okuphendula umbuzo wokuthi kungani athintane noHezekiya. Uma ilanga uqobo lagudluka ngokucela kukaHezekiya, yini ayengayenza kwiAsiriya?

UHezekiya wadlala kanjani ngethuba elihle kakhulu lokudumisa uNkulunkulu, akhombe abaseBhabhiloni kuYe? Kwaba yini umphumela? Isaya 39. UHezekiya, owayefanele afakaze kubona ngoNkulunkulu, kunalokho wabakhomba kolwakhe "udumo." Sithola sifundo sini lapho?

Ukujula Nesifundo:

"Kwakungokungenelela kukaNkulunkulu kuphela ukuthi isithunzi sibuyele emuva izinyathelo eziyishumi; lokhu kwakuyisibonakaliso kuHezekiya sokuthi uNkulunkulu wawuzwa umkhuleko wakhe. Kanjalo-ke, 'umprofethi wakhala kuNkulunkulu: wasihlehlisa isithunzi izinyathelo eziyishumi, elaselizihambile esilinganisweni sika-Ahazi.' Izindimana 8-11."—Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 342. "Ukuvakasha kwalezithunywa ezivela kumbusi wezwe elikude, kwanika uHezekiya ithuba lokuphakamisa uNkulunkulu ophilayo. Kwakuyokuba lula kangakanani kuyena ukubatshela ngoNkulunkulu, ophethe konke okudaliweyo, owaphilisa naye uHezekiya ngesihe saKhe ngesikhathi lonke ithemba seliphelile!... "Kodwa ukuziphakamisa nokunaka okuyize kwagcwala enhliziyweni kaHezekiya, kwathi ngokuziphakamisa kwakhe, wavezela abanamehlo abukhali umcebo uNkulunkulu ayenothise ngawo abantu baKhe. Inkosi 'yabatshengisa indlu yamagugu akhe, isiliva, negolide, namakha, namafutha amahle, nayo yonke indlu yezikhali, nakho konke okwafunyanwa engcebeni yakhe, akubangakho nto endlini yakhe nasembusweni wakhe wonke uHezekiya angababonisanga yona.' Isaya 39:2. Akakwenzelanga ukudumisa uNkulunkulu lokhu, kodwa ukuziphakamisa yena emehlweni wezikhulu zasezweni elikude."—Amakhasi 344, 345.

Imibuzo Yokuxoxisana:

1. USathane ufana kanjani nerabushekha yase-Asiriya na? Ukhuluma iqiniso yini uma ethi wonile (Zekariya 3:1)? UNkulunkulu uphendula athini? Bheka uZekariya 3:2-5. Yini okuyilona themba lethu kuphela kulezimangalo? Roma 8:1.
2. Uyaziyeka yini izinsolo zakhe uSathane uma sewuthethelelwe? Bheka iSambulo 12:10. Ngemuva kokuthethelelwa, uSathane aqhubeke nokuthi ungowakhe ngenxa yesono sakho, kuluhlobo luni ukusola kwakhe? Bheka kuDuteronomi 19:16-21 (umthethowofakazi wamanga, onenzondo).

Ngokufingqiwe: Ngokuphendula isikhalo senkosi ethembekile, uNkulunkulu wasindisa abantu baKhe, wazibonakalisa ukuthi ungubani: uMninimandla onke, iNkosi kaIsrayeli, olawula ikusasa lomhlaba; akagcini ngokubhubhisa labo abazama ukubhubhisa abantu baKhe, kodwa futhi wenzela abanye amathuba, noma benobu"Bhabhiloni" obungakanani, ukuba babe abantu baKhe.