



**Desperate times for Leaders. (Also recorded in 2 Kings 18:13-27 & 2 Chronicles 32:1-19)*

**Isaiah 36:1* Now it came to pass in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah that Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. *2* Then the king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh with a great army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. And he stood by the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller's Field. *3* And Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to him.

4 Then the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say now to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: "What confidence is this in which you trust? *5* I say you speak of having plans and power for war; but they are mere words. Now in whom do you trust, that you rebel against me? *6* Look! You are trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him."

1. **V:1-3 The enemy is real** and He has taken a lot of territories and it looks like he will win.

***The is now the historical account** of the prophecy from **Isaiah 7:16-17**

Things look bad, But God...

You cannot buy your way out of trouble. 2 Kings 18:13-27 Hezekiah sends gold and silver to Sennacherib and he took the gold from the temple doors.

Looking to the mighty men. 2 Chronicles 32:1-19 to Stop the flow of water that Sennacherib would see the city as a place without water.

2. **V:4-6 The enemy is verbal!** But, In this case, the enemy is speaking the truth.

Egypt was NOT the proper place for Israel to look for help from their enemies.

Misplaced trust in people will always disappoint. Trusting God is the only way.

God rescued them because Hezekiah remembers the real power is with God.

***2 Chronicles 32:8** (Sennacherib) *With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.*

**The enemy will mess with our message.*

**Isaiah 36:7* "But if you say to me, 'We trust in the LORD our God,' is it not He whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away, and said to Judah and Jerusalem, 'You shall worship before this altar?'" *8* Now therefore, I urge you, give a pledge to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give you two thousand horses—if you are able on your part to put riders on them! *9* How then will you repel one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put your trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen? *10* Have I now come up without the LORD against this land to destroy it? The LORD said to me, 'Go up against this land, and destroy it.'

1. **V:7-8 When the enemy speaks against** and questions the wisdom of our testimony.

Attacking our reasoning for trusting God is often very subtle.

V:8 The enemy wants us to believe that to trust him (devil, world, culture, or science) anyone other than God makes good sense. Really?

***2 Kings 18:3-4** Hezekiah rightly removed the high place in the hills that had idol worship.

The attorney general of CA. an attack against pregnancy centers.

2. **V:9-10 Deception is very unsettling.**

Knowing the Word of God and having it confirmed is the only defense.

Genesis 3 Has God not said... It is how the serpent deceived Eve. Adam was a willful transgressor.

**A powerful influencer causing you to question God and godly leadership.*

**Isaiah 36:11 Then Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it; and do not speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people who are on the wall." 12 But the Rabshakeh said, "Has my master sent me to your master and to you to speak these words, and not to the men who sit on the wall, who will eat and drink their own waste with you?"*

13 Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out with a loud voice in Hebrew, and said, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! 14 Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you; 15 nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, "The LORD will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria." ' 16 Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: 'Make peace with me by a present and come out to me; and every one of you eat from his own vine and every one from his own fig tree and every one of you drink the waters of his own cistern; 17 until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards. 18 Beware lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, "The LORD will deliver us." Has any one of the gods of the nations delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria?

1. **V:11-14 The voice of the enemy knows how to discourage us about our obedience.**

The enemy will always attack godly leadership in your home, work, government, and country.

2. **V:15-18 The real agenda. Is to remove our faith that God is a deliverer.**

How should we reply to the boasting of the enemy?

**Isaiah 36:19 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Indeed, have they delivered Samaria from my hand? 20 Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"*

21 But they held their peace and answered him not a word; for the king's commandment was, "Do not answer him." 22 Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and told him the words of the Rabshakeh.

1. **Don't answer him, the enemy of our faith.** This truth is often wrongly used by believers who don't understand a gentle answer turns away wrath. (**Proverbs 15:1**)

I am calling this the middle of the month proverb because the 15th is the middle of the month in our wisdom reading plan.

2. **V:21 They held their peace and we shouldn't give ours away!**