

Isaiah 36

King James Version (KJV)

36 Now it came to pass in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah, that Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the defenced cities of Judah, and took them. (This is also written of in the historical records of the Assyrians – as a second witness to the Bible)

(God sent the Assyrians to correct Judah for their great sins)

(Written on the cylinder of Sennacherib, it says – “I have Hezekiah trapped like a bird in a cage”)

²And the king of Assyria sent Rabshakeh from Lachish to Jerusalem unto king Hezekiah with a great army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field. (This is just outside of Jerusalem)

³Then came forth unto him Eliakim, Hilkiah's son, which was over the house, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah, Asaph's son, the recorder. (They were going to talk with the enemy, in hopes of making peace)

⁴And Rabshakeh said unto them, Say ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, What confidence is this wherein thou trustest? (Who do you trust now?)

(Judah had tried to hire the Egyptians as mercenaries for help against the Assyrians. The Egyptians took their money and ran. There were no Egyptians on the scene at this time)

(Afterwards, Hezekiah smartened up and returned to trusting in God)

⁵I say, sayest thou, (but they are but vain words) I have counsel and strength for war: now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me? (They had already conquered the 10 northern tribes of Israel. Now they were after Judah and Benjamin)

NOTE: (The Assyrian is also a type for antichrist. He will try to weaken the people's trust in God. The Israelites were wrong to trust the Egyptians. The true Christians will be right to keep trusting God, even while facing threats from antichrist and the fallen angels)

⁶Lo, thou trustest in the staff of this broken reed, on Egypt; whereon if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of

Egypt to all that trust in him. (If you use a reed as a cane, it will break under your weight. The sharp end will pierce your hand. Egypt was in no position to help anyone and the Assyrians knew that)

⁷ But if thou say to me, We trust in the LORD our God: is it not he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and said to Judah and to Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar? (The people of Judah had taken God out; and let in the idols of the heathen tribes into God's temple in Jerusalem. Even the Assyrians saw that. In fact, God sent the Assyrians to straighten Judah out)

Future: (The fallen angels will ask – Where is your God now? They will be trying to weaken peoples' faith in God, when antichrist is here)

⁸ Now therefore give pledges, I pray thee, to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them. (pledges = hostages)

(This is a taunt – The Assyrians are laughing at Judah. They're saying that they'll give them 2,000 horses; but Judah won't even have 2,000 men left to sit upon them)

⁹ How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? (Even the weakest of the captains of the Assyrian army is greater than they are)

¹⁰ And am I now come up without the LORD against this land to destroy it? the LORD said unto me, Go up against this land, and destroy it. (God sent the Assyrians to chastise Judah for their idolatry) See Isaiah-10:5-8

¹¹ Then said Eliakim and Shebna and Joah unto Rabshakeh, Speak, I pray thee, unto thy servants in the Syrian language; for we understand it: and speak not to us in the Jews' language, in the ears of the people that are on the wall. (Don't let the people on the walls hear what the Assyrians are threatening to do. They would be frightened. But this is what the Assyrians want. That's why they are speaking in Hebrew)

¹² But Rabshakeh said, Hath my master sent me to thy master and to thee to speak these words? hath he not sent me to the men that sit upon the wall, that they may eat their own dung, and drink their own

piss with you? (Now the Assyrians are overstepping their bounds. God will punish them for their arrogance; while He still chastises Judah)

¹³ Then Rabshakeh stood, and cried with a loud voice in the Jews' language, and said, Hear ye the words of the great king, the king of Assyria. (He wants to make sure that everyone hears him)

¹⁴ Thus saith the king, Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you. (This statement is true. Only God can deliver them)

¹⁵ Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, The LORD will surely deliver us: this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria. (the LORD = Yahoveh – God's holy name)

(Now they are speaking against God Himself. There will be punishment for their blasphemy. God will not be mocked by anyone)

¹⁶ Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me: and eat ye every one of his vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his own cistern; (He is a type for antichrist – taking over the world with lying promises of prosperity and peace; in exchange for your soul. Most people will fall for it)

¹⁷ Until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. (This would have been Ninevah, in Assyria)

(Again, this is a type for antichrist, and his "rapture" doctrine. Come with me and I will rapture you away. Most people will believe and follow him)

¹⁸ Beware lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, the LORD will deliver us. Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? (By now, they had conquered many countries including the 10 northern tribes of Israel. Their ego was out of control. He forgot who sent him and why)

¹⁹ Where are the gods of Hamath and Arphad? where are the gods of Sepharvaim? and have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? (The Assyrian is putting God <Yahoveh> in the same group as the false gods of the heathen nations. He's asking for trouble and he will get it)

²⁰ Who are they among all the gods of these lands, that have delivered their land out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand? (Lord = Yahoveh) (He is equating God to the idols of the heathen nations)

(He is saying that even Yahoveh, the God of heaven and earth, cannot save Judah from his army. That is blasphemy. No army can stand against Almighty God. Rabshakeh is about to learn a lesson – only a fool mocks God)

²¹ But they held their peace, and answered him not a word: for the king's commandment was, saying, Answer him not. (There was no point in talking with the Assyrians any longer. They meant to destroy Jerusalem, if the Israelites didn't surrender)

²² Then came Eliakim, the son of Hilkiah, that was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah, the son of Asaph, the recorder, to Hezekiah with their clothes rent, and told him the words of Rabshakeh. (The rent clothes was a sign of mourning and despair)