### Isaiah

## Chapter 36

1It was in the 14th year of the reign of [King] HezekiAh [of Judah] that King SenNaCherib of Assyria [marched against] the fortified cities of Judah and took them. 2Then the king of Assyria sent RabShakeh from LachIsh to King HezekiAh in JeruSalem with a huge army, and he [set up camp] by the aqueduct to the upper pool, which is on the road to the field of the washerwomen.  
  
3So, EliAkim (son of HilkiAh) [the King’s] house manager, the scribe ShebNa, and JoAh (son of Asaph) the recorder, went out to meet with him. 4And RabShakeh said to them:  
  
 ‘Speak to HezekiAh and tell him that this is what the great king of Assyria has said:  
  
 ‘On what are you really relying? 5Have you worked out a plan with the words from your lips about how you’re going to fight this battle? On whom are you relying so that you’re resisting my persuasion?  
  
 6‘Look! If you’re relying on that fractured reed cane Egypt… If a man should put his weight on [that reed], it will go all the way through his hand! Yes, this is all that PharaOh, the king of Egypt, and those who are relying on him amount to!  
  
 7‘And if you should say that you’re relying on your God Jehovah… Isn’t He the same One whose high places and altars were removed by HezekiAh, and who then told Judah and JeruSalem that they had to come and bow before the Altar here in this place?  
  
 8‘Why not rather join with my lord the king of Assyria? For if you do, I’ll give you 2,000 horses… That is, if you’re able to provide enough riders for them!  
  
 9‘Can your governors who are relying on the Egyptians provide you with that many horses and riders?  
  
 10‘And do you think that we were able to come up to this place and wage war against it without [the aid of] Jehovah? It was Jehovah that told us to come to this land and destroy it!’  
  
11Well, EliAkim, ShebNa, and JoAh then said to RabShakeh:  
  
 ‘Please speak to your servants in Syriac, so we alone can [understand] what you’re saying. Don’t speak to us in the Judean tongue! Why must you speak so that all the men along the walls can hear you?’  
  
12And RabShakeh replied:  
  
 ‘Do you think that my lord sent me to speak these words to just your lord? For, aren’t these men who are sitting along the walls the ones who’ll have to eat their own excrement and drink their own urine?’  
  
13And at that, RabShakeh stood up and yelled in a loud voice in the Judean language:  
  
 ‘Pay attention to the words of the great king of the Assyrians! 14For this is what the king said:  
  
 ‘Don’t be fooled by what HezekiAh has told you, because there’s no way that he can save you! 15And don’t let HezekiAh tell you that his God will rescue you; for there’s no way that He can save this city from the hands of the king of Assyria!’  
  
 16‘The king of Assyria says:  
  
 ‘Don’t listen to HezekiAh!  
  
 ‘If you want to receive his blessings, come here to me and you’ll each eat from your own grapevines and fig trees, and drink water from your own wells. 17Because, when I come here, I’ll carry you to a land that will become yours… A land of grain, wine, bread, and vineyards!’  
  
 18‘So, don’t let HezekiAh deceive you and say:  
  
 ‘Our God will come and save us!’  
  
 ‘Have any of the gods of the nations been able to rescue their own places from the hands of the king of Assyria?  
  
 19‘Where are the gods of HaMath or ArPhad? Where is the god of the Cities of Scrolls… Was he able to rescue Samaria from my hands? 20Since none of these gods of the nations could rescue their lands from my hands, how can Jehovah save JeruSalem from my hands?’  
  
21Well, everyone stayed silent and no one replied with a word, because the king had decreed that no one was to answer him.  
  
22Then EliAkim (son of HelkiAh) the house manager, ShebNa the scribe, and JoAh (son of Asaph) the recorder ripped their clothes and returned to HezekiAh to tell him what RabShakeh had said.