

Isaiah 36:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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?

Analysis

Rabshakeh's graphic response about people eating their own dung and drinking their own urine depicts siege horror. He explicitly states his message targets the common people on the wall who will suffer siege deprivation. This crude psychological warfare aims to create panic and civilian pressure on Hezekiah to surrender. The tactic reveals Satan's methodology—targeting the vulnerable with worst-case scenarios to induce fear. Rabshakeh shows contempt for diplomatic protocol, exposing Assyria's brutal arrogance.

Historical Context

Ancient siege warfare did result in such horrific conditions when cities held out too long. Rabshakeh's description was not exaggeration but realistic threat.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the enemy use worst-case scenarios to paralyze believers with fear?
2. What is the antidote to terror-based psychological warfare?
3. How do we maintain hope when facing genuinely threatening circumstances?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	הַרְשָׁקָה ה	הָאֵל ל	אֲדֹנִי י	וְאֵלַי יְ	שָׁלַח נִי	
said	But Rabshakeh	H413	Hath my master	H413	sent	
H559	H7262		H113		H7971	
אֲדֹנִי י	לְדַבֵּר ר	אֵת	הַדְּבָרִים ים	הָאֵל לָהּ	הֵלֵא א	עַל
Hath my master	and to thee to speak	H853	these words	H428	H3808	H5921
H113	H1696		H1697			
הָאֲנָשִׁים ים	הַיֹּשְׁבִים	עַל	הַחוֹמָה ה	לֶאֱכֹל ל	אֵת	
H376	that sit	H5921	upon the wall	that they may eat	H853	
	H3427		H2346	H398		
חֲרָאֵיהֶם	וְלִשְׁתּוֹת	אֵת	שִׁינֵיהֶם	עִמָּכֶם:		
their own dung	and drink	H853	H7890	H5973		
H2716	H8354					

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 18:27 (Word): But Rabshakeh said unto them, Hath my master sent me to thy master, and to thee, to speak these words? hath he not sent me to the men which sit on the wall, that they may eat their own dung, and drink their own piss with you?