

Isaiah 36:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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?

Analysis

The warning "Beware lest Hezekiah persuade you" repeats the deception charge, while adding "The LORD will deliver us" as the supposedly false promise. Rabshakeh now explicitly attacks trust in YHWH, escalating from political to theological assault. The rhetorical question "Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered his land?" equates YHWH with impotent pagan deities. This blasphemy reveals the fundamental error—Rabshakeh cannot distinguish between the true God and false gods, judging YHWH by pagan standards.

Historical Context

Assyria had conquered numerous nations whose gods proved powerless. From pagan perspective, all deities were equally ineffective against Assyrian might.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the world judge God by worldly standards rather than recognizing His unique sovereignty?
2. What is the fundamental error in comparing YHWH to created false gods?
3. How do we maintain confidence in God's uniqueness when the world sees all religions as equivalent?

Interlinear Text

פָּן	יִסֵּית	אֶתְּךָ	חֲזִקִּי הוּא	לֹא מֵר	יְהוָה
H6435	persuade	H853	Beware lest Hezekiah	you saying	The LORD
	H5496		H2396	H559	H3068
הֵהָצִי יָלֹו	הֵהָצִי יָלֹו	אֱלֹהֵי	הַגּוֹיִם	אֵל יֵשׁ	אֶת
delivered	delivered	of the gods	of the nations	us Hath any	H853
H5337	H5337	H430	H1471	H376	his land
					H776
מִיַּד	מֶלֶךְ	אֲשׁוּרִי			
out of the hand	of the king	of Assyria			
H3027	H4428	H804			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 36:15 (Kingdom): 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.