

# Isaiah 36:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Where are the gods of Hamath and Arphad? where are the gods of Sepharvaim? and have they delivered Samaria out of my hand?

## Analysis

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The taunt "Where are the gods of Hamath and Arphad...Sepharvaim?" lists conquered cities whose deities failed to save them. The climactic question "have they delivered Samaria?" is particularly cutting—Samaria was Israel's capital, fallen to Assyria in 722 BC. Rabshakeh implies that if YHWH couldn't save the northern kingdom, He certainly can't save Judah. This argument has superficial logic but misses that Samaria fell precisely because of covenant unfaithfulness, while Hezekiah has instituted reforms and sought God.

## Historical Context

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Hamath, Arphad, and Sepharvaim were Syrian cities conquered by Assyria. Samaria's fall was recent memory, making Rabshakeh's argument psychologically powerful.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How do we answer when unbelievers point to apparent failures of faith as evidence God doesn't help?
2. What is the difference between God allowing judgment for sin versus inability to save?
3. How does Hezekiah's faithfulness distinguish Judah from Samaria's fate?

## Interlinear Text

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|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| אֵי הָ        | אֱלֹהֵי י          | חַמַּת                  | וְאַרְפָּד | אֵי הָ     | אֱלֹהֵי י          |
| H346          | Where are the gods | of Hamath               | and Arphad | H346       | Where are the gods |
|               | H430               | H2574                   | H774       |            | H430               |
| סִפְרֵי יָם   | וְכִי              | הָצִי יָלֹוּ            | אֶת        | שָׁמַר וִן | מִדִּי:            |
| of Sepharvaim | H3588              | and have they delivered | H853       | Samaria    | out of my hand     |
| H5617         |                    | H5337                   |            | H8111      | H3027              |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 49:23** (Parallel theme): Concerning Damascus. Hamath is confounded, and Arpad: for they have heard evil tidings: they are fainthearted; there is sorrow on the sea; it cannot be quiet.