

# Isaiah 36:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

The officials returning with "their clothes rent" signifies deep distress—tearing garments was the customary expression of grief or horror at blasphemy. Despite their diplomatic composure during the meeting, they appropriately grieve at the assault on God's honor. Their report to Hezekiah sets up the king's faithful response in chapter 37. The officials' grief demonstrates that spiritual leaders should feel the weight of attacks on God's name, not becoming calloused to blasphemy.

## Historical Context

Rent clothes appear throughout Scripture as response to catastrophe or blasphemy (Genesis 37:29; 2 Kings 18:37). This cultural practice expressed what words could not.

## Related Passages

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

1. How should we respond emotionally to attacks on God's character and name?
2. What does appropriate grief over blasphemy look like in modern context?
3. How do we balance emotional response to God's dishonor with confident trust in His sovereignty?

## Interlinear Text

## Additional Cross-References

**Isaiah 36:3** (Parallel theme): Then came forth unto him Eliakim, Hilkiah's son, which was over the house, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah, Asaph's son, the recorder.

**Isaiah 33:7** (Parallel theme): Behold, their valiant ones shall cry without: the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly.