

Isaiah 36:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah were Hezekiah's senior officials who went to negotiate with Rabshakeh. Their titles indicate governmental organization: Eliakim "over the household" (palace administrator), Shebna "the scribe" (secretary of state), and Joah "the recorder" (official historian). This diplomatic delegation shows proper protocol but also Hezekiah's wise refusal to personally engage with blasphemous threats. The confrontation between God's servants and pagan representatives sets up a spiritual conflict beyond mere politics.

Historical Context

These were real historical figures. Archaeological evidence confirms Shebna's existence through tomb inscriptions. The precision of names demonstrates Isaiah's historical reliability.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How should believers engage with hostile secular authorities?
2. What does sending representatives rather than appearing personally teach about wisdom in conflict?
3. How do we maintain faith while engaging necessary diplomacy with opponents?

Interlinear Text

עַל	אֲשֶׁר	רְכִלְבָּרִי	הַוּ
Then	came	forth	
			H413
			H3318
אֶל	יְמִ	אֶלְיָקִים	בֶּן
		unto him	Eliakim
		H471	H1121
			H1121
בְּנֵי	הַוּ	חִילְקָיָה	הַוּ
		H834	H5921
		H2518	
אֶבֶן	שְׁבַתָּא	הַסְּפֵר	רְ
which	was	over	the
the	house	and	Shebna
			the
			scribe
		H7644	H5608
			H5608
וְיַעֲזָר	וְיַעֲזָר	וְיַעֲזָר	וְיַעֲזָר
בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן
אֶסְפָּהָן	אֶסְפָּהָן	אֶסְפָּהָן	אֶסְפָּהָן

הַמִּזְכִּיר:
the recorder

H2142

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