

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

וַיָּצֵא	אֵל יוֹ	אֶלְיָקִים	בֶּן	חִלְקִיָּהוּ	אִשָּׁר	עַל
Then came forth		unto him Eliakim	son	Hilkiah's		
H3318	H413	H471	H1121	H2518	H834	H5921
הָיָה יָת	וְשִׁבְנָא	הַסֵּפֶר	וַיּוֹאֶח	בֶּן	אִסָּף	
which was over the house	and Shebna	the scribe	and Joah	son	Asaph's	
H1004	H7644	H5608	H3098	H1121	H623	
הַמְזַכֵּיר:						
the recorder						
H2142						

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org