

Isaiah 36:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Rabshakeh said unto them, Say ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, What confidence is this wherein thou trustest?

Analysis

The Rabshakeh's taunt reveals the spiritual warfare dimension behind political crises. His rhetorical question 'What confidence is this?' attacks the very foundation of faith - trusting God despite circumstances. This mirrors Satan's temptation strategy, questioning God's Word and provision. Hezekiah's silence models godly wisdom in not defending oneself before mockers.

Historical Context

Assyrian propaganda was sophisticated psychological warfare designed to demoralize defenders before battle. The Rabshakeh's use of Hebrew (v. 11) intentionally targeted common soldiers, attempting to circumvent leadership.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when your faith is publicly challenged or mocked?

2. What is the difference between defending your faith wisely and being drawn into fruitless arguments?

Interlinear Text

רַא אֶת־אֶלְיָהוּ כִּי־הַזֹּקִין־הַזֶּה
Thus saith And Rabshakeh Thus saith ye now to Hezekiah
H559 H413 H7262 H559 H4994 H413 H2396

כִּי־הַזֹּקִין־הַזֶּה אֶת־וְרַא אֶת־רַב־שָׁקֵה
H3541 Thus saith king the great king of Assyria What confidence
H559 H4428 H1419 H4428 H804 H4100 H986

בְּטַח־וְרַא אֲשֶׁר־בָּזְבֻּן
H2088 H834 is this wherein thou trustest
H982

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