

Isaiah 37:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests covered with sackcloth, unto Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz.

Analysis

Hezekiah sending officials "covered with sackcloth" to Isaiah demonstrates proper spiritual priorities in crisis—seeking prophetic counsel before political solutions. Sackcloth symbolized mourning, repentance, and humility before God. The king includes both civil officials (Eliakim, Shebna) and priests, showing unity between governmental and religious leadership. Consulting Isaiah acknowledges that this is fundamentally a spiritual crisis requiring divine intervention, not merely a political problem needing diplomatic solutions.

Historical Context

Isaiah was recognized as YHWH's authentic prophet with access to divine counsel. Seeking prophetic guidance before battle was common in Israel (1 Kings 22:5-8).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do we prioritize seeking God's word in crisis rather than immediately pursuing human solutions?
2. What does Hezekiah's humility teach about leadership during overwhelming challenges?
3. When facing difficulties, do we consult God's word and His servants first or last?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	בְּבַת	בְּבַת	עַל	אֲשֶׁר	אֶלְיָקִים	מִן	אָתָּה	וְיִשְׁלַחַת
And he sent	H853	Eliakim	H834		H5921		who was over the household	H853
	H7971		H471				H1004	
וְשְׁבַנָּא	רְשָׁבֶן	רְשָׁבֶן	וְאֶת	הַסּוֹפֵר	וְאֶת	זְהָבִים	מִתְכַּסֵּם	וְאֵת
and Shebna	the scribe	H853		and the elders	H2205	of the priests	H3548	covered
H7644	H5608						H3680	
וְבִשְׁלָק	וְבִשְׁלָק	וְבִשְׁלָק	וְאֶל	וְיִשְׁעֵן	וְאֶל	בְּנֵי	הַבְּרִיאָה:	וְאֶת
with sackcloth	H413	unto Isaiah	H3470	the son	H1121	of Amoz	H531	the prophet
H8242							H5030	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:1 (Parallel theme): The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.