

“The Bully Speaks”

Isaiah 36

The Meeting V. 1-3

“Fourteenth year” – Historically we know this took place about 701 BC. Hezekiah was co-regent with his father for several years and the fourteenth year would indicate fourteen years since the beginning of his solo reign.

“Fortified cities” – Assyria had already conquered all the other cities in Judah.

“Rabshakeh” – A high-ranking military officer of Assyria (General).

“Washer’s Field” – The place where Isaiah confronted Ahaz this was also the vulnerable spot during a siege. This spot was picked for the maximum intimidation. ***Isaiah 7:1–9***

“Eliakim, Shebna, Joah” – These were the officials of Jerusalem. Their names could have been actual names or titles.

The Speech V. 4-22

“King” V. 4 – The honorable title of King is only used with Sennacherib never with Hezekiah.

“Trust” V. 5 – He uses this word seven times in his speech. This was also the main message of Isaiah throughout the first half of his book.

“Egypt” V. 6 – Powerless before Assyria. Egypt would not commit a full military campaign against Assyria instead they sent a small envoy (ch. 37) and sold Judah chariots, horses and armor which the Hebrew farmers could not use.

“High Places” V. 7 – The Rabshakeh thought the Lord and the people were upset with Hezekiah for destroying the worship places on the hills and only worshipping God in the temple. He did not know that Hezekiah was cleansing the nation of pagan idolatry.

2 Kings 18:1-8, 13-18; 2 Chron. 31:1-9, 16-19

“2000 Horses” V. 8 – He was saying that even if they gave the Hebrews horses and weapons that they still could not defeat the Assyrians.

“Single Captain” V. 9 – One of the Assyrian officers could defeat all of your Egyptian horsemen and chariots.

“The Lord said” V. 10 – Your God sent us here to destroy you. ***Isaiah 10:5–12***

“Aramaic” V. 11-13 – A large crowd had gathered during this speech and the officials asked the Rabshakeh to speak in Aramaic (the language of Assyria) rather than Hebrew so the people would not be alarmed. He refused and spoke more boldly.

“Deceive” V. 14-15 – The Rabshakeh was saying Hezekiah was the deceiver when he was the one attempting to convince and deceive.

“Land” V. 16-17 – He promised them that they could go back to their farms until they were relocated to another place just as good. ***1 Kings 4:25***

“Gods” V. 18-20 – Has any other gods delivered the other nations? Refuse this offer and we will destroy you just like them.

“Not a word” V. 21-22 – The Jerusalem officials did not say a word in response. First because they were instructed not to, secondly because many of the things said were true and they were in shock.

Philippians 4:4-13

Discussion Questions

What distracts you from trusting God?

What past events or times in your life prove the provision of God?

What can be your immediate response to the world in order to stay focused on God?

Homework

Read *Isaiah Ch. 37*

Answer the following questions:

1. What does God's Word say? List the facts.
2. What does God's Word mean? Learn the lessons.
3. What does God's Word mean to me? Listen to His voice.
4. How will I respond to God's Word today? Live it out.

Acknowledge the blessed provision of God in the past, pray without ceasing, and surround yourself with Godly people.