

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

**In preparation for Sunday, February 26, 2023**

**Passage: Isaiah 36:1-22**

Memory Passage: Isaiah 37:33-38 (We'll memorize these verses this week and next week)

### **DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Is. 36:1-22.** To what genre has Isaiah moved, and how does this inform the way you interpret the text?

(b) Some historical background: By 701BC (“the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah,” who reigned from 715-687BC), Sennacherib, King of Assyria (reigned 705-681BC), had overtaken 46 of the 48 fortresses in Judah, and his troops were at Lachish about to overtake the 47<sup>th</sup> when he sent messengers to Judah, the 48<sup>th</sup>. The events recorded in Isaiah 36-39 are also recorded in 2 Kings 18:13-20:19, the latter sometimes giving more information, sometimes less, and sometimes a near word-for-word match (cf. Isaiah 36:4-20 with 2 Kings 18:19-35). Aramaic was the language of Syria but was also the international language of business and diplomacy.

(c) Read 2 Kings 18:1-12 & 2 Chronicles 29:1-31:1 and describe what you learn about King Hezekiah's reign. How does it differ from King Ahaz's (Hezekiah's father) reign?

### **DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Is. 36:1-22.** What is the significance of the location the Rabshakeh chose to meet Hezekiah's messengers (cf. 7:3)?

(b) Where have you met Eliakim and Shebna before, and what significance does that play here (cf. 22:15-25)?

(c) The Rabshakeh uses the word “trust” seven times in his speech. Find each occurrence and compile what his message is.

(d) Though well-informed, what does the Rabshakeh misunderstand about Hezekiah's actions in v. 7?

### **DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

### **READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Is. 36:1-22.** Why does the Rabshakeh offer Judah two thousand horses in vs. 8-9?

(b) Explain why the Rabshakeh is well-informed but again misunderstands what he knows in v.10 (cf. 10:5-6).

(c) Why do Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah ask the Rabshakeh to speak in Aramaic, and why does he decline (vs. 11-12)?

(d) Why does the Rabshakeh say Judah's men are “doomed to eat their own dung and drink their own urine (v. 12)?

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Is. 36:1-22.** Explain the Rabshakeh's message (vs. 13-15), promises (vs. 16-17), and warning (vs. 18-20) to the men of Judah.

(b) How did the men of Judah respond (vs. 21-22)?

(c) In 37:4 King Hezekiah says the Assyrian king sent the Rabshakeh "to mock the living God." In what ways do you see this happening? Be specific by recording the words spoken and why they are intended to mock God.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Is. 36:1-22.** Have you ever experienced anyone interacting with you with such bold mocking of God? How did you respond? What did you learn this week that would have helped you respond in a more godly manner or that will help in future encounters?

(b) The words of the Rabshakeh are words satan and his angels like to use against God's people (i.e., don't trust in God, He's not who you think He is, how many times have you seen Him actually stick up for you, etc.). How should you respond to these kinds of thoughts when you doubt God's sovereignty, goodness, and strength?

(c) What would you have responded if you were one of the men on the wall listening to the Rabshakeh? For example, how would you have refuted each of the mocking taunts the Rabshakeh made on behalf of the King of Assyria?

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*Hezekiah Part I: Sennacherib's Challenge*