

Note: The political situation in Jerusalem was at a crucial point. The Northern Kingdom of Israel and Samaria have been captured and its people taken back to Assyria into slavery. The Assyrian army continued its advance, capturing several cities of Judah, and was now right outside the gates of Jerusalem. The city had been under siege for some days and supplies were running out.

1. *Challenge:* King Hezekiah, king of Judah, sent a delegation of three people to the Assyrian field commander, Rabshakeh, hoping to save the Holy City. What are the three positions held by the king's delegation? (Is 36:3)
2. How would you characterize the attitude of the Assyrian field commander toward Hezekiah's delegation in his opening words? (Is 36:3-4)
3. Isaiah records the Assyrian field commander's words to Hezekiah's delegation.
 - a. What does the field commander acknowledge as the only two sources of Hezekiah's defense? (Is 36:6-7)
 - b. How does he characterize Egypt's military strength against that of Assyria? (Is 36:6)
 - c. What is his evaluation of divine strength against Assyria? (Is 36:7)
 - d. What does he say about Hezekiah's faith in the Lord? (Is 36:7)
4. What is the challenge the Assyrian field commander poses to Hezekiah's delegation in Isaiah 36:8?
5. The three-man delegation asked the Assyrian field commander not to speak in Hebrew. (Is 36:11)
 - a. What do they fear? (Is 36:11)
 - b. How does the field commander utilize their fear to embarrass them even further? (Is 36:12-13)
6. The Assyrian field commander addressed the people sitting on the city's walls watching the event.
 - a. How does the field commander try to weaken their faith in the Lord as well as their trust in King Hezekiah? (Is 36:16-20)
 - b. What temptations does the King of Assyria offer the people under siege in Jerusalem? (Is 36:16-20)
7. What is the Assyrian field commander's opinion of the gods of other nations, including Hezekiah's God? (Is 36:18-20)
8. How do the people on the walls and the three court officials respond to the field commander's words, and for what reason? (Is 36:21)
9. *Challenge:* The delegation returned to King Hezekiah, having torn their clothes. (Is 36:22) It was a well-known custom for Jews in certain circumstances to symbolically tear their clothing. For what reason did the delegation tear their clothes after meeting with the field commander?