

Isaiah 36
Be Not Unaware of the Enemies Schemes
(II Kings 18:13-37 / II Chronicles 32:9-15)

Strategies of the enemy (II Corinthians 11:13-15) – ***He makes himself look good***

False speech (John 8:44) – ***He lies and deceives – accusing and manipulating***

False accusations (Revelation 12:10) – ***never accepting Christ's payment for us***

False promises (II Corinthians 1:20) – ***only in Christ are God's promises kept***

False claims (Genesis 3:5) – ***His path does not lead where you hope***

Fear (Hebrews 2:14-15) – ***Jesus conquered death for us***

No one can rescue you – no hope (Romans 5:3-5)

No one has been able to stop this enemy – no strength (Colossians 1:28-29)

No one will be exempt from the misery – no escape (I Corinthians 10:13)

Jesus is our hope, our strength, and our deliverer

Following God? – “God told me to do this” – ***be wary of those who make such claims***

God never contradicts His character (Hebrews 6:18)

God never contradicts His word (I Kings 13:18 / Galatians 1:8-9)

He does not change – His plan is not thwarted – He keeps His promises

Failures renumerated – whether true or false (Isaiah 5:20 / Romans 1:32)

The enemy calls evil good and good evil

Removing high places and altars to the LORD? ***Doing what is right before God***

Reminding people to trust the LORD for deliverance?

Standing firm – ***We must not give way to the enemy***

Silence – not responding in kind (Romans 12:17-21)

Knowing we are in Christ – we can be wronged without retaliating

Seeking to protect the weak – leaders on the front lines (Acts 20:28-31)

Sometimes leaders have to bear the burden of those under their care

Staying true to the king – not compromising His Word (John 8:31-32)

You cannot truly know His Word without obedience (James 1:22)

Sackcloth & ashes – humbly crying out to the LORD (Psalm 51:17 / Isaiah 66:2)

We do not elevate ourselves, but rather turn to the only source of help

Discussion questions for Isaiah 36

How can we recognize the voice of the enemy? (Psalm 119:105 / II Corinthians 5:7 / Colossians 2:6-8 / Colossians 3:1-4) ***His Word must always be our guide – trusting what He says even when it doesn't make sense in our circumstances. We must be on our guard against the counsel or philosophies of this world. We need to walk steadfastly in the truth we have been given in Christ. Our focus must be on the eternal, not letting the things of this world take our hearts and/or minds away from Jesus and His soon return.***

How do we battle the enemies lies and deception? (Ephesians 6:16 / II Corinthians 10:5 / James 1:13-17) ***Faith in God and His Word will quench the fiery darts of deception that the enemy would shoot us with. Every thought I have must be taken captive and made obedient to Christ. We must understand that God never tempts us to do evil. Our own evil desires lead us astray – so I must trust God over my own heart. (Proverbs 28:26) Everything that is truly good comes only from the Father's hand and He does not change. (Hebrews 13:8)***

What causes us to fear? How can we gain courage in fearful situations? Hebrews 2:14-15 / Luke 12:4-7 / I John 4:4 / Philippians 4:6-7) ***Fear often comes from uncertainty. While we cannot know everything about our future, we can know that our Savior has conquered death and that He will be with us every step of the way. (Hebrews 13:5) We know that He knows and cares about our needs. (Matthew 6:30-34) As we put ourselves into His loving care, we walk with the One who is greater than he who is in this world. We can cast all our cares on Him (I Peter 5:7) and thank Him in all situations. (I Thessalonians 5:18) He will protect our hearts and minds and give us a peace that passes understanding.***

How do we discern whether or not someone is sent from God? (I Timothy 5:22, 24-25 / Galatians 1:6-10 / James 3:13-18 / Jude 12, 16) ***It is important for us not to be hasty in putting our trust in those seeking positions of leadership. We need time to observe the one giving us counsel – to be sure that they live and teach the truths of the gospel. Wisdom is done in humility and good deeds, not out of envy or selfish ambition. It leads to what is pure and peaceable, not to strife and divisions. Those who are self-seeking and who grumble about others are not who you want to follow.***

What steps can be taken to stand firm when evil is prevalent, and times are difficult? (Hebrews 10:24-25 / I Corinthians 15:58 / II Timothy 4:1-4 / Ephesians 6:10-18) ***Meeting together is critical – we need each other. Fixing our hope on His resurrection and promise to take us to be with Him helps us to stand. His Word must not be ignored or compromised and our strength must come from Him – not our own devices.***

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