

Isaiah 36-37 • The Overt Spiritual Attack

Round 1 (36:1-12)

1. (36:1-3) Spiritual deceivers always try to mimic **God's ways**.
2. (36:4-6) Spiritual deceivers often incorporate some of the truth of **God's Word** into their own message.
3. (36:7) Spiritual deceivers attempt to reinterpret the very definition of "**worship**".
4. (36:8-10) Spiritual deceivers attempt to **discredit** the righteous and even **buy them off**. They invoke God's name but don't actually follow His Word in the process.
5. (36:11-12) Spiritual deceivers love to use the **group** to bring pressure for their side.

Round 2 (36:13-22)

1. The 2nd attack varies from the 1st attack:
 - a. 1st they tried to discourage reliance on Egypt, now they discourage reliance on **Hezekiah**.
 - b. Both attacks attempt to tarnish Hezekiah's **spiritual** credibility.
 - c. 1st they tried to bribe Hezekiah, now they try to bribe **the people**.
 - d. 1st they claimed to have been sent by God, now they number Him as just **one of all the gods**.
2. Deceivers introduce non-biblical **truths** and **practices** to weaken true faith and obedience.

The 1st Response (37:1-7)

1. (37:1-4) Never engage the enemy without first engaging **the Lord**. Spirituality **stability** is critical before engaging a hostile foe.
2. We must recognize that it's **God's** name and kingdom being attacked rather than **our own**.
3. (v.5-7) God often requires a personal response of **faith** and **endurance** on our part.

Round 3 (37:8-13)

1. In "Round 1" the assertion was to not be deceived by Egypt, in "Round 2" it was changed to not be deceived by Hezekiah, now it's changed to "Do not let **your God** in whom you trust deceive you."
2. Spiritual deceivers eventually reveal they hold no special regard for **God**.
3. Spiritual deceivers ultimately attempt to redefine Christianity according to the terms and conditions of other **false religions**.

The 2nd Response (37:14-20)

1. Separate the facts from the **doctrinal** errors.
2. Keep as a priority God's **glory** rather than one's own.

God's Response (37:21-35)

1. (37:21-29) God identifies the source of the problem as **pride**, and it's in dealing with their **pride** that God responds.
2. Spiritual deceivers may have started out **right** according to God's direction, but pride has **misdirected** their ultimate destination.
3. (37:30-35) If spiritual deceivers cannot win the battle outright, they'll attempt to render us ineffective by choking our **resources**.
4. The faithful remnant always experiences the fact that God is **greater** than the **circumstances**.

The End Result (37:36-38)

1. God intervenes on behalf of those that **cling** to Him, who maintain the priority of **truth** and **right worship**. God seems to desire our **faithfulness** as the best, first response.
2. Spiritual deceivers often fail to learn the right lesson and retreat to their **false gods** and **ways** rather than submitting to God.