

¹Now it came to pass in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah, that Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the defenced cities of Judah, and took them.²And the king of Assyria sent Rabshakeh from Lachish to Jerusalem unto king Hezekiah with a great army. And he stood by the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field.³Then came forth unto him Eliakim, Hilkiyah's son, which was over the house, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah, Asaph's son, the recorder.⁴And Rabshakeh said unto them, Say ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, What confidence is this wherein thou trustest?⁵I say, sayest thou, (but they are but vain words) I have counsel and strength for war: now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me?⁶Lo, thou trustest in the staff of this broken reed, on Egypt; whereon if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all that trust in him.⁷But if thou say to me, We trust in the LORD our God: is it not he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and said to Judah and to Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar?⁸Now therefore give pledges, I pray thee, to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give thee two thousand horses, if thou be able on thy part to set riders upon them.⁹How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?¹⁰And am I now come up without the LORD against this land to destroy it? the LORD said unto me,

¹وَكَانَ فِي السَّنَةِ الرَّابِعَةِ عَشْرَةَ لِلْمَلِكِ حَزَقِيَّا أَنَّ سَنَحَرْيَبَ مَلِكَ أَشُورَ صَعِدَ عَلَيَّ كُلَّ مُدُنِ يَهُودَا الْحَصِيَّةَ وَأَجْدَهَا.² وَأَرْسَلَ مَلِكَ أَشُورَ رِبْشَاقَى مِنْ لَخِيشَ إِلَى أُورُسَلِيمَ إِلَى الْمَلِكِ حَزَقِيَّا بِجَيْشٍ عَظِيمٍ، قَوِّفَ عِنْدَ قَنَازَةِ الْبَرْكَةِ الْعُلْيَا فِي طَرِيقِ حَفْلِ الْقَصَارِ.³ فَخَرَجَ إِلَيْهِ أَلْيَاقِيمُ بْنُ حَلْفِيَّا الَّذِي عَلَى الْبَيْتِ وَشِبْنَةُ الْكَاتِبِ وَبُؤَاحُ بْنُ آسَافَ الْمُسَجِّلُ.⁴ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ رِبْشَاقَى، قُولُوا لِحَزَقِيَّا، هَكَذَا يَقُولُ الْمَلِكُ الْعَظِيمُ مَلِكَ أَشُورَ، مَا هُوَ هَذَا الْإِتْكَالُ الَّذِي اتَّكَلْتَهُ.⁵ أَقُولُ إِنَّمَا كَلَامُ الشَّعْطَيْنِ هُوَ مَسْهُورُهُ وَبَاسٌ لِلْحَرْبِ. وَالْآنَ عَلَى مَنْ اتَّكَلْتَ حَتَّى عَصَبْتَ عَلَيَّ.⁶ إِنَّكَ قَدْ اتَّكَلْتَ عَلَيَّ عُكَّازِ هَذِهِ الْقَصْبَةِ الْمَرْصُوصَةِ، عَلَى مِصْرَ، الَّتِي إِذَا تَوَكَّأَ أَحَدٌ عَلَيْهَا دَخَلَتْ فِي كَفِّهِ وَتَقَبَّضَتْهَا. هَكَذَا فِرْعَوْنُ مَلِكَ مِصْرَ لَجَمِيعِ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ عَلَيْهِ.⁷ وَإِذَا قُلْتُ لِي، عَلَى الرَّبِّ إِلَهِنَا اتَّكَلْنَا، أَفَلَيْسَ هُوَ الَّذِي أَرَاكَ حَزَقِيَّا مُرْتَفِعَاتِهِ وَمَذَابِحَهُ، وَقَالَ لِيَهُودَا وَلِأُورُسَلِيمَ، أَمَامَ هَذَا الْمَذْبَحِ تَسْجُدُونَ.⁸ فَلَا أَرَاهُنَّ سَيِّدِي مَلِكَ أَشُورَ، فَأَعْطَيْكَ أَلْفِي قَرَسٍ إِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ أَنْ تَجْعَلَ عَلَيْهَا رَاكِبِينَ.⁹ فَكَيْفَ تَرُدُّ وَجْهَ وَالٍ وَاحِدٍ مِنْ عِبِيدِ سَيِّدِي الصَّغَارِ، وَتَتَّكِلُ عَلَى مِصْرَ لِأَجْلِ مَرْكَبَاتٍ وَفُرْسِيَّانَ.¹⁰ وَالْآنَ هَلْ يَدُونَ الرَّبَّ صَعِدْتُ عَلَى هَذِهِ الْأَرْضِ لِأُخْرِتِهَا. الرَّبُّ قَالَ لِي اضْعُدْ، إِلَى هَذِهِ الْأَرْضِ وَأُخْرِتِهَا.¹¹ فَقَالَ أَلْيَاقِيمُ وَشِبْنَةُ وَبُؤَاحُ لِرِبْشَاقَى، كَلِّمْ عَبِيدَكَ بِالْأَرَامِيِّ لَأَنَّا نَفْهَمُهُ، وَلَا نُكَلِّمُنَا بِأَلْفِيَهُودِيٍّ فِي مَسَامِعِ الشَّعْبِ الَّذِينَ عَلَى السُّورِ.¹² فَقَالَ رِبْشَاقَى، هَلْ إِلَى سَيِّدِكَ وَإِلَيْكَ أُرْسَلَنِي سَيِّدِي لِأَتَكَلِّمَ بِهِذَا الْكَلَامَ. أَلَيْسَ إِلَى الرِّجَالِ الْجَالِسِينَ عَلَى السُّورِ، لِيَأْكُلُوا عَذْرَتَهُمْ وَيَسْرُبُوا بَوْلَهُمْ مَعَكُمْ..¹³ ثُمَّ وَقَفَ رِبْشَاقَى وَتَادَى بِصَوْتٍ عَظِيمٍ بِالْيَهُودِيِّ، اسْمَعُوا كَلَامَ الْمَلِكِ الْعَظِيمِ مَلِكَ أَشُورَ.¹⁴ هَكَذَا يَقُولُ الْمَلِكُ، لَا يَخْدَعُكُمْ حَزَقِيَّا لِأَنَّهُ لَا يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يُنْقِذَكُمْ¹⁵ وَلَا يَجْعَلَكُمْ حَزَقِيَّا تَتَكَلَّبُونَ عَلَى الرَّبِّ قَائِلًا، إِنْقَازًا يُنْقِذُنَا الرَّبُّ. لَا تُدْفِعْ هَذِهِ الْمَدِينَةَ إِلَى يَدِ مَلِكِ أَشُورَ.¹⁶ لَا تَسْمَعُوا لِحَزَقِيَّا. لِأَنَّهُ هَكَذَا يَقُولُ مَلِكَ أَشُورَ، ااعْقِدُوا مَعِيَ صُلْحًا، وَأُخْرِجُوا إِلَيَّ وَكُلُّوا كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ مِنْ جَفَنِيهِ، وَكُلُّ وَاحِدٍ مِنْ تَيْبَتِيهِ، وَاسْرُبُوا كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ مَاءَ بَنِيهِ¹⁷ حَتَّى آتِي وَأَخْذَكُمْ إِلَى أَرْضٍ مِثْلِ أَرْضِكُمْ، أَرْضٍ حَنُطَةٍ وَحَمَرٍ، أَرْضَ خُبْزٍ وَكَزْزُومٍ.¹⁸ لَا يَغْرُكُمْ حَزَقِيَّا قَائِلًا، الرَّبُّ يُنْقِذُنَا. هَلْ أُنْقِذَ إِلَهُهُ الْأَمَمِ كُلَّ وَاحِدٍ أَرْضَهُ مِنْ يَدِ مَلِكِ أَشُورَ.¹⁹ أَيْنَ إِلَهُهُ

Go up against this land, and destroy it.¹¹ Then said Eliakim and Shebna and Joah unto Rabshakeh, Speak, I pray thee, unto thy servants in the Syrian language; for we understand it : and speak not to us in the Jews' language, in the ears of the people that are on the wall.¹² But Rabshakeh said, Hath my master sent me to thy master and to thee to speak these words? hath he not sent me to the men that sit upon the wall, that they may eat their own dung, and drink their own piss with you?¹³ Then Rabshakeh stood, and cried with a loud voice in the Jews' language, and said, Hear ye the words of the great king, the king of Assyria.¹⁴ Thus saith the king, Let not Hezekiah deceive you: for he shall not be able to deliver you.¹⁵ Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, The LORD will surely deliver us: this city shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.¹⁶ Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me: and eat ye every one of his vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his own cistern;¹⁷ Until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards.¹⁸ Beware lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, The LORD will deliver us. Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?¹⁹ Where are the gods of Hamath and Arphad? where are the gods of Sepharvaim? and have they delivered Samaria out of my hand?²⁰ Who are they among all the gods of these lands, that

حَمَاةً وَأَرْقَادَ. أَتَيْنَ إِلَهُهُ سَعَرَوَائِمَ. هَلْ أَنْقَذُوا السَّامِرَةَ مِنْ يَدِي.²⁰ مَنْ مِنْ كُلِّ إِلَهٍ هَذِهِ الْأَرْضِ أَنْقَذَ أَرْضَهُمْ مِنْ يَدِي، حَتَّى يُنْقِذَ الرَّبُّ أَوْرَشَلِيمَ مِنْ يَدِي.²¹ فَسَكَنُوا وَلَمْ يُجِيبُوا بِكَلِمَةٍ لِأَنَّ أَمْرَ الْمَلِكِ كَانَ، لَا تُجِيبُوهُ.²² فَجَاءَ أَلْيَاقِيمُ بْنُ حَلَفِيَّا الَّذِي عَلَى النَّبْتِ وَشِبْتُهُ الْكَاتِبُ وَبَوَاحُ بْنُ آسَافَ الْمُسَجَّلُ إِلَى حَرْقِيَّا وَتِيَابُهُمْ مُمَرَّقَةٌ، فَأَخْبَرُوهُ بِكَلَامِ رَشَاقَى.

have delivered their land out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?²¹ But they held their peace, and answered him not a word: for the king's commandment was, saying, Answer him not.²² Then came Eliakim, the son of Hilkiah, that was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah, the son of Asaph, the recorder, to Hezekiah with their clothes rent, and told him the words of Rabshakeh.