



Washerman's Field is not a place that most tourists in Israel will ever visit. It's an obscure place, just a couple of miles south of Jerusalem. It's only mentioned a couple of times in the Bible. However, two different kings of Judah faced a similar and important question at this location at Washerman's Field. We today are confronted with the same question, and the answer we give is just as important.

KING AHAZ' ANSWER

Ahaz was the King of Judah. The beginning of his reign matched the beginning of Isaiah's prophetic ministry.

He was not a **godly** man or a **good** king of Judah.

2 Kings 16:2-5, Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. He did not do what was pleasing in the sight of the LORD his God, as his ancestor David had done. Instead, he followed the example of the kings of Israel, even sacrificing his own son in the fire. In this way, he followed the detestable practices of the pagan nations the LORD had driven from the land ahead of the Israelites. He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the pagan shrines. (NLT)

The **Assyrians** were the superpower of the day, and they were a threat to Judah and Ahaz' throne.

Ahaz was faced with three options:

1. Option One: Join Syria and Israel, in forming a coalition

Isaiah 7:3-6, Go out and...meet Ahaz...on the road to the Washerman's Field. Say to him, 'Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—who have plotted your ruin, saying, "Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart...Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'It will not take place, it will not happen.'" (NIV)

2. Option Two: Join Assyria

Isaiah 7:13-14, Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn't it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well? All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel which means 'God is with us'. (NLT)

3. Option Three: Trust God

2 Kings 16:7-8, King Ahaz sent messengers to King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria with this message: "I am your servant and your vassal. Come up and rescue me from the attacking armies of Aram and Israel." Then Ahaz took the silver and gold from the Temple of the LORD and the palace treasury and sent it as a payment to the Assyrian king. (NLT)

KING HEZEKIAH'S ANSWER

Fast forward 33 years to another king: Hezekiah. The place is the same, the threat is the same, and the question is the same.

2 Kings 18:17, The king of Assyria sent his supreme commander, his chief officer and his field commander with a large army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. They came up to Jerusalem and stopped at the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field. 'This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: On what are you basing this confidence of yours? You say you have strategy and military strength—but you speak only empty words. On whom are you depending? 'Come now, make a bargain with my master, the king of Assyria...The LORD himself told me to march against this country and destroy it...Do not let Hezekiah deceive you. He cannot deliver you from my hand. Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the LORD. "Do not listen to Hezekiah...Make peace with me and come out to me. Then every one of you will eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern...Do not listen to Hezekiah, for he is misleading you when he says, 'The LORD will deliver us.'" (NIV)

Same **question** ... Different **answer**.

2 Kings 19:19, Now, O LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O LORD, are God." (NIV)

YOUR ANSWER

When you are facing impossible odds, the question to you is the same as the one Ahaz and Hezekiah faced at Washerman's Field.

Whom are you going to trust?

Jesus seems like an unlikely choice.

It is not easy to choose to trust the one born in a manger 2,000 years ago.

It is a lot easier to trust in our jobs, our abilities, our "contacts."

Remember who he is: He the **mighty God**.