

# Isaiah 10:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people:  
and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all  
the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened  
the mouth, or peeped.

## Analysis

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The Assyrian boasts of effortless plunder: 'My hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people.' Like gathering unguarded eggs, he collected wealth without resistance. 'None moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped'—no bird defended its nest; no nation resisted his advance. This metaphor of complete helplessness before predatory power reveals both the extent of Assyrian dominance and the king's inflated self-assessment. He attributes this success entirely to his own hand, never acknowledging the divine hand that permitted—and would soon stop—his conquests.

## Historical Context

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Ancient warfare regularly involved systematic plundering of conquered territories. Assyrian records boast of massive tribute extracted from vassal states. The policy of mass deportation and resettlement broke national resistance, making rebellion seem futile. This economic dominance—combined with military superiority and psychological warfare—created the helplessness Isaiah describes. Yet God had raised up Assyria as His 'rod of anger' (v.5), and would break that rod when His purposes were accomplished (v.12).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does attributing achievements to 'my hand' reveal a heart that has forgotten God's providence?
2. What does God's use of Assyria teach about how He can accomplish His purposes through ungodly instruments?

## Interlinear Text

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וַתִּמְצֵא אֵל hath found H4672	כַּקֵּץ וְ as a nest H7064	וַיְדִי And my hand H3027	לְהֵי יָל the riches H2428	הָעַמִּים יִם of the people H5971	אֶסְפְּתִי and as one gathereth H622	
בִּיצֵי יִם eggs H1000	שְׁעָזְבֹת that are left H5800	כָּל H3605	הָאֶרֶץ all the earth H776	אֲנִי H589	אֶסְפְּתִי and as one gathereth H622	וְלֹא H3808
הָיָה H1961	וְנִדָּה and there was none that moved H5074		כַּנֶּף the wing H3671	וּפָתְחָהּ or opened H6475	פִּיהָ the mouth H6310	וַתִּצְפֹּץ or peeped H6850

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 31:25** (Parallel theme): If I rejoiced because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much;

