

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

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

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

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

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

אָסָּף	פְּתִיא	קָעֵם	יִם	לִמְלָא	כְּלָא	אָנָּדִי	לִלְמָד	לִתְמָצֵא	אָלֵי	לִלְמָד	לִתְמָצֵא	אָלֵי	
hath found	as a nest	And my hand	the riches	of the people	and as one gathereth								
H4672	H7064	H3027	H2428	H5971	H622								
אָלֵי	אָסָּף	פְּתִיא	אָנָּדִי	לִלְמָד	לִתְמָצֵא	אָלֵי	אָלֵי	אָלֵי	אָלֵי	אָלֵי	אָלֵי	אָלֵי	
eggs	that are left	H3605	all the earth	H589	and as one gathereth								
H1000	H5800	H776	H589	H622	H3808								
בְּנֵי	נִדְּד	נִדְּד	כְּלָא	כְּלָא	כְּלָא	וְנִצְפָּאָה	וְנִצְפָּאָה	וְנִצְפָּאָה	וְנִצְפָּאָה	וְנִצְפָּאָה	וְנִצְפָּאָה	וְנִצְפָּאָה	
H1961	and there was none that moved	H5074	the wing	H3671	or opened	the mouth	or peeped						
				H6475	H6310	H6850							

Additional Cross-References

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

