

Isaiah 10:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They are gone over the passage: they have taken up their lodging at Geba; Ramah is afraid; Gibeah of Saul is fled.

Analysis

Isaiah depicts the Assyrian invasion's advance toward Jerusalem with geographical precision. Each location named marks the enemy's northward approach from Samaria toward Judah's capital. 'They are gone over the passage'—crossing the border into Judean territory. 'Lodging at Geba'—establishing positions. The towns mentioned—Ramah, Gibeah—respond with fear and flight. This vivid description creates tension: the enemy advances relentlessly toward God's city. Yet the prophet's purpose is to highlight what happens when this unstoppable force meets the immovable Rock (verses 32-34).

Historical Context

The locations mentioned are real towns north of Jerusalem. Geba was about 6 miles north of Jerusalem; Ramah about 5 miles; Gibeah (Saul's hometown) about 3 miles. This geographical specificity suggests either prophetic vision of a future invasion or description of an actual campaign. Sennacherib's 701 BC invasion approached from the north after conquering Lachish to the southwest. The detailed geography emphasizes how close Assyria came to Jerusalem—and how miraculous their sudden defeat became.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when threats seem to advance relentlessly toward what you hold dear?
2. What does God's allowance of danger to come very close (but not succeed) teach about His sovereignty and timing?

Interlinear Text

עָבְרוּ	מִעֶבֶר הַ	גִּבְעָה	מִלִּן	לִנְוֹ
They are gone over	the passage	at Geba	they have taken up their lodging	H0
H5674	H4569	H1387	H4411	
חִירָדָה	רָמָה הַ	גִּבְעַת	וּלְ	נָסָה:
is afraid	Ramah	Gibeah	of Saul	is fled
H2729	H7414	H1390	H7586	H5127

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 13:23 (Parallel theme): And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the passage of Michmash.

1 Samuel 7:17 (Parallel theme): And his return was to Ramah; for there was his house; and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto the LORD.

Joshua 21:17 (Parallel theme): And out of the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon with her suburbs, Geba with her suburbs,

1 Samuel 11:4 (Parallel theme): Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept.