

Isaiah 10:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, shall lop the bough with terror: and the high ones of stature shall be hewn down, and the haughty shall be humbled.

Analysis

The climax: Assyria reaches 'Nob,' a hill overlooking Jerusalem, shaking their fist against 'the mount of the daughter of Zion' and 'the hill of Jerusalem.' This dramatic image captures the moment of greatest threat—the enemy literally at the gates, arrogantly defying God's city. Yet this is also the moment of deliverance. The shaking fist represents proud defiance against God Himself, since Zion is His dwelling place. This guarantees Assyria's defeat—God will not allow His holy hill to be desecrated.

Historical Context

Fulfilled in 701 BC when Sennacherib's army besieged Jerusalem. 2 Kings 18-19 records the taunts and threats. From Nob, Assyrian commanders could see Jerusalem's walls, which they mocked. Yet this proximity to victory became the location of defeat—that very night, God's angel destroyed 185,000 soldiers. The closer enemies get to defying God's holiness, the more certain their judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does threatening God's people and His purposes ultimately threaten God Himself?
2. What does this teach about the security of those who dwell in God's presence and protection?
3. How have you experienced God's deliverance when threats seemed most overwhelming?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּה	בָּאֵדָן	יְהִי	אֶבְרָא	וְתַ	מִקְשָׁע	פָּאָכֵה
H2009	Behold the Lord	the LORD	of hosts	shall lop	the bough	
H113		H3068	H6635	H5586	H6288	
בְּמַעַרְצָה	וְתַ	בְּקֹמָה	יְמִ	גְּדוּלָה	וְתַ	בְּגָבָה
with terror	and the high ones	of stature	shall be hewn down	and the haughty		
H4637	H7311	H6967	H1438	H1364		
אָשָׁפֵל						
shall be humbled						
H8213						

Additional Cross-References

Amos 2:9 (Parallel theme): Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars, and he was strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath.

Isaiah 37:38 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esar-haddon his son reigned in his stead.