

Isaiah 10:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so;
but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few.

Analysis

Despite being God's instrument, Assyria doesn't recognize this role. 'Howbeit he meaneth not so' indicates Assyria's ignorance of God's purposes. 'Neither doth his heart think so' shows their intentions differ from God's. 'His heart is to destroy and cut off nations not a few' reveals Assyria's imperial ambition—they seek conquest for glory and wealth, not to serve God's justice. This demonstrates how God's sovereignty works through secondary causes—agents act from their own motives while accomplishing God's purposes.

Historical Context

Assyrian annals boast of conquests, tribute, and imperial glory—never acknowledging serving Israel's God. Sennacherib's inscriptions glorify Assyrian gods and his own prowess. Kings like Tiglath-Pileser III and Sargon II thought they built empire through military superiority, unaware they fulfilled prophecy. This pattern recurs throughout Scripture—Cyrus, Nebuchadnezzar, Pilate—all unwittingly serve God's plan while pursuing their own aims.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God accomplish His purposes through people who don't acknowledge Him?
2. What does this teach about divine sovereignty working through human free agency?
3. How might God be using current events to accomplish purposes we don't yet understand?

Interlinear Text

וְהוּא	לֹא	כִּי	יִדְּמָה	בְּלִבּוֹ	לֹא	כִּי
H1931	H3808	H3651	Howbeit he meaneth	not so neither doth his heart	H3808	H3651
			H1819	H3824		
בְּ	יִחְשַׁב	כִּי	לְהַשְׁמִיד	בְּלִבּוֹ	וּלְהַכֹּת	אֶת
	think	H3588	to destroy	not so neither doth his heart	and cut off	nations
	H2803		H8045	H3824	H3772	H1471
לֹא	מְעַט:					
H3808	not a few					
	H4592					

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 50:20 (Parallel theme): But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Acts 2:23 (Parallel theme): Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: