

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

בְּלֹבֶב וְיִדְעֵם הַכְּלָבִים כִּי לֹא יְהֹא
H1931 H3808 H3651 **Howbeit he meaneth** not so neither doth his heart H3808 H3651
H1819 H3824

גַּוְעַם	וְلֹבֶכֶר	יְהִת	בְּלֹבֶב	וְלֹבֶב	לְהַשְׁמָמָה	יָד	כִּי	יְחִשֵּׁב	
think	H3588	to destroy	not so neither doth his heart	and cut off	nations				

ל א מַעַט: 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: