

Isaiah 10:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he saith, Are not my princes altogether kings?

Analysis

The Assyrian king's boast reveals the pride that precedes destruction. His rhetorical question 'Are not my princes altogether kings?' displays the arrogance of attributing conquest to human power rather than divine sovereignty. Each Assyrian prince wielded kingly authority, making their combined force seem unstoppable. Yet this very pride—taking credit for what God had permitted—would become the instrument of their judgment. God uses proud nations to accomplish His purposes, then judges them for the pride with which they carried out His will (Isaiah 10:5-7, 12).

Historical Context

The Assyrian Empire (911-609 BC) was the ancient world's first true superpower, known for brutal military campaigns and mass deportations. Their provincial governors ('princes') indeed ruled with near-absolute power. Sennacherib's invasion of Judah (701 BC) demonstrated this arrogance, as recorded both in Scripture (2 Kings 18-19) and in Assyrian annals. The Assyrians viewed their conquests as proof of their gods' superiority, never recognizing they were instruments in Yahweh's hand.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does attributing success to our own power rather than God's sovereignty reveal pride in our hearts?
2. What does God's use of proud nations for His purposes teach about His sovereignty over human history?

Interlinear Text

מֶלֶךְ יְהוָה יְהוָה אָמַר לְכָה
kings H4428 altogether H3162 Are not my princes H8269 For he saith H559 H3808

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 18:24 (Parallel theme): How then wilt thou turn away the face of one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put thy trust on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?

2 Kings 19:10 (Kingdom): Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.