

Isaiah 33:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might.

Analysis

Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done (שמעו רוחקים אשר עשיתי) shim'u rechoqim asher asiti)—hear (עָשָׂה, shama) you who are (rachoq, far, distant) what I've done (עָשָׂה, asah). **And, ye that are near, acknowledge my might** (וְעוֹד קָרוֹבִים גְּבֻרָתִי) qarov, near) my (geburah, might, power, strength).

God summons universal witness—both far (Gentile nations) and near (Israel/Judah)—to observe His mighty acts. The 'far' must hear reports; the 'near' witnessed directly and must acknowledge. Psalm 46:10: 'Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.' Sennacherib's destruction testified to all nations of Yahweh's supremacy. Acts 1:8 uses similar geography: 'ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.'

Historical Context

News of 185,000 Assyrian soldiers' overnight death spread throughout the ancient Near East. Assyria was the superpower; its humiliation shocked nations. The 'far off' heard reports; Judah experienced it directly. God's מִתְּהָא (geburah, might) was demonstrated unmistakably. Similarly, Jesus's resurrection was witnessed by those 'near' (apostles, disciples) and proclaimed to those 'far' (Gentiles)—both must hear and acknowledge God's power.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do God's mighty acts serve as witness to both those 'far' and 'near'— what's your responsibility to testify?
2. What distinction exists between hearing reports (far) and personally acknowledging (near)?
3. How can you help those 'far off' hear what God has done, and those 'near' truly acknowledge His might?

Interlinear Text

שְׁמַע	רְחוֹק	אֲשֶׁר	עָשָׂה	אָדָע
Hear	ye that are far off	H834	what I have done	acknowledge
H8085	H7350		H6213	H3045

קָרוּב	גָּבְרִיתִי
and ye that are near	my might
H7138	H1369

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 48:10 (Parallel theme): According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy right hand is full of righteousness.

Isaiah 49:1 (Parallel theme): Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.

