

Isaiah 33:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thine heart shall meditate terror. Where is the scribe? where is the receiver? where is he that counted the towers?

Analysis

Thine heart shall meditate terror (לְבָבְךָ יְהִגֵּה אֵימָה, libbekha yehggeh eymah)—your heart (לב, lev) will meditate (הַגָּה, hagah, muse, ponder) on אֵימָה (eymah, terror, dread). **Where is the scribe? where is the receiver? where is he that counted the towers?** (אֵיה סֹפֵר אֵיה שׁוֹקֵל אֵיה סֹפֵר אֶת-הַמִּגְדָּלִים) where (אייה, ayeh) is the scribe (ספר, sofer), the weigher/receiver (שׁוֹקֵל, shoqel), the one counting towers?

Looking back at the terror of Assyrian siege, the righteous will remember and marvel at deliverance. The three officials—scribe (recording tribute), receiver/weigher (collecting payment), tower-counter (assessing defenses for siege)—represent Assyrian bureaucracy of oppression. Where are they now? Gone, destroyed, irrelevant. Psalm 48:12-13 invited: 'Walk about Zion... Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the next generation'—but towers that needed counting during siege stand untaken. God's deliverance makes enemy threat a memory to ponder with gratitude.

Historical Context

During siege, Assyrian officials assessed Jerusalem's defenses, calculated tribute, recorded wealth to plunder. Rabshakeh's propaganda speech (Isaiah 36) exemplified this intimidation. But after angel struck Assyrians dead (Isaiah 37:36), those officials were corpses or fled. The rhetorical 'where?' mocks their absence—they're gone, their threats empty. Similarly, Revelation 18:21-24 pronounces

Babylon's fall: merchants, shipmasters, craftsmen—all silenced. God's enemies become footnotes; His Kingdom endures.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What past 'terrors' do you meditate on now with gratitude for God's deliverance?
2. Who are the 'scribes,' 'receivers,' and 'tower-counters' that once threatened but are now powerless?
3. How does remembering defeated enemies strengthen faith for current challenges?

Interlinear Text

לְבָב	יְהֹוָה	ה	אִתָּם	ה	אֵי	ה	סִפְרִי	רַ	אֵי	ה
Thine heart	shall meditate		terror		H346		Where is the scribe		H346	
H3820	H1897		H367				H5608			
שְׁקָרְבָּן	אֵי	ה	סִפְרִי	רַ	אֵת	ה	פְּמַנְדְּלִים:	לְ		
where is the receiver		H346	Where is the scribe	H853			the towers			
H8254			H5608				H4026			

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 1:20 (Parallel theme): Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

2 Kings 18:14 (Parallel theme): And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended; return from me: that which thou

puttest on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

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