

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 (לִבְךָ יִהְיֶה אֵימָה, libbekha yehgeh eymah)—your heart (לֵב, lev) will meditate (הִגָּה, hagah, muse, ponder) on אֵימָה (eymah, terror, dread). **Where is the scribe? where is the receiver? where is he that counted the towers?** (אֵימָה שׁוֹקֵל אֵימָה סוֹפֵר אֶת־הַמִּגְדָּלִים, ayeh sofer ayeh shoqel ayeh sofer et-hamigdalim)—where (אֵימָה, ayeh) is the scribe (סוֹפֵר, 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

לִבְךָ Thine heart H3820	יִהְיֶה הָ shall meditate H1897	אִימָה הָ terror H367	אֵי הָ H346	סֵפֶר Where is the scribe H5608	אֵי הָ H346
שֶׁקֶל ל where is the receiver H8254	אֵי הָ H346	סֵפֶר ר Where is the scribe H5608	אֶת H853	הַמִּגְדָּלִים: the towers 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.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org