

Isaiah 33:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At the noise of the tumult the people fled; at the lifting up of
thyself the nations were scattered.

Analysis

At the noise of the tumult the people fled (מִקּוֹל הַמּוֹן נָדְדוּ עַמִּים, miqol hamon nadedu amhim)—at the קוֹל (qol, voice, noise) of הַמּוֹן (hamon, tumult, roar, multitude) the עַמִּים (amhim, peoples) fled (נָדְדוּ, nadad, flee, wander, retreat). **At the lifting up of thyself the nations were scattered** (מֵרֹמְמֶתְךָ נָפְצוּ גוֹיִם, meromemutekha nafs'u goyim)—when You lifted Yourself up (רִוַּם, rum, be exalted), גוֹיִם (goyim, nations) were scattered (נָפְצוּ, nafats, scattered, dispersed).

God's response to prayer (v. 2): He arises, and enemies scatter. The 'noise of tumult' may be thunder (theophanic manifestation) or simply divine presence causing terror. Psalm 68:1: 'Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered.' When God 'lifts Himself up' (רִוַּם, romem, exalts Himself), nations flee. The Assyrians experienced this—overnight catastrophe sent them fleeing (Isaiah 37:36-37). No battle was fought; God alone won victory. Psalm 46:6: 'He uttered his voice, the earth melted.'

Historical Context

Ancient warfare depended on maintaining army morale. Sudden panic could cause entire armies to flee (Judges 7:21-22, 2 Kings 7:6-7). When God struck 185,000 Assyrian soldiers dead, the survivors fled in terror. Sennacherib's hasty retreat to Nineveh (Isaiah 37:37) fulfilled this prophecy—at God's lifting up, the mighty nation scattered. No human army defeated them; divine intervention did.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. When has God 'lifted Himself up' in your circumstances, causing seemingly overwhelming enemies to scatter?
2. How does knowing God can scatter nations with His voice affect prayer and trust during threats?
3. What modern 'nations' or powers seem overwhelming until God arises against them?

Interlinear Text

מִקֹּל	הַמִּוּל	נָדָד ו	עַם יִם	יָרָא וַיִּמָּחֶה	וַיִּפְצֹץ
At the noise	of the tumult	fled	the people	at the lifting up	were scattered
H6963	H1995	H5074	H5971	H7427	H5310
גַּם־לְנֶפֶשׁ:					
of thyself the nations					
H1471					