

Isaiah 33:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, their valiant ones shall cry without: the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly.

Analysis

Behold, their valiant ones shall cry without (הֵן אֶרְעָלִים צָעֲקוּ חוּצָה, hen er'elam tsa'aqu chutsah)—their אֶרְעָלִים (er'elam, heroes, valiant ones) cry out (צָעַק, tsa'aq) חוּצָה (chutsah, outside, in the streets). **The ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly** (מַלְאֲכֵי שְׁלוֹם מָר יִבְכְּיוּ, mal'akhey shalom mar yibkayun)—messengers of שְׁלוֹם (shalom, peace) weep (בָּכָה, bakhah) מָר (mar, bitterly).

This describes the crisis moment—Assyria's siege has terrified even Judah's heroes. The 'valiant ones' (possibly Hezekiah's soldiers or leading men) cry publicly, and peace negotiators weep bitterly. Second Kings 18:17-37 records Assyria's propaganda assault; Isaiah 36 shows Rabshakeh's intimidation tactics. Even brave men wept at the hopelessness. The 'ambassadors of peace' may be those Hezekiah sent to negotiate (2 Kings 18:14-16), who returned empty-handed after Sennacherib rejected tribute and demanded total surrender.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern sieges involved psychological warfare—intimidation, threats, propaganda. Sennacherib's field commander mocked Judah's God, proclaimed Egypt's unreliability, and promised exile (Isaiah 36:4-20). Even experienced warriors could be demoralized. Hezekiah's tribute payment (2 Kings 18:14-16) failed to satisfy Assyria—the ambassadors returned weeping, their peace mission failed. Only divine intervention would save Jerusalem.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. When have circumstances been so dire that even 'valiant ones' cried and peace efforts failed?
2. How does recognizing the depth of crisis make God's deliverance more glorious?
3. What situations make you weep bitterly, and how can you turn that desperation into prayer?

Interlinear Text

הָאֵלֹהִים	אֲרָאֶלְכֶם	צָעֲקוּ	בְּלֹא	מַלְאָכָיו	שָׁלֵמוֹת
H2005	Behold their valiant ones	shall cry	without	the ambassadors	of peace
	H691	H6817	H2351	H4397	H7965
בְּרִיָּה	יִבְכּוּ:				
bitterly	shall weep				
H4751	H1058				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 36:22 (Parallel theme): Then came Eliakim, the son of Hilkiah, that was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah, the son of Asaph, the recorder, to Hezekiah with their clothes rent, and told him the words of Rabshakeh.

2 Kings 18:18 (Parallel theme): And when they had called to the king, there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph the recorder.

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