

Isaiah 37:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed, as Gozan, and Haran, and Rezeph, and the children of Eden which were in Telassar?

Analysis

The recitation of conquered peoples—"Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, Eden, Telassar"—aims to overwhelm hope through accumulated evidence. The question "Have the gods of the nations delivered them?" again equates YHWH with powerless idols. Sennacherib fundamentally misunderstands that false gods have no existence (1 Corinthians 8:4), while YHWH is the living God who acts in history. The litany of failures proves nothing about what the true God will do.

Historical Context

These were real historical conquests. Gozan was in Upper Mesopotamia, Haran in northwest Mesopotamia, Rezeph in Syria. Eden (Beth-eden) and Telassar were Aramean territories.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does multiplying examples of difficulty sometimes overwhelm faith rather than building it?
2. What is the fundamental difference between asking false gods for help versus the living God?
3. How do we maintain hope when facing accumulated evidence of human defeat?

Interlinear Text

הַשְׁחִית יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר רְבָגְוִים בְּהַצְּרָאָה אֲלֹהִים מִן אֹמֶן
delivered H853 Have the gods of the nations H1471 H834 have destroyed H7843

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them which my fathers H1 H853 as Gozan H1470 and Haran H2771 and Rezeph H7530

וְאַתֶּם אֲבֹתַי אֲבֹתַי אֲבֹתַי אֲבֹתַי אֲבֹתַי
and the children of Eden H834 which were in Telassar H8515

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 11:31 (Parallel theme): And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

Acts 7:2 (References God): And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,

2 Kings 18:11 (Parallel theme): And the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes:

2 Kings 17:6 (Parallel theme): In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

2 Kings 19:12 (References God): Have the gods of the nations delivered them which my fathers have destroyed; as Gozan, and Haran, and Rezeph, and the children of Eden which were in Thelasar?

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