

Isaiah 37:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

Analysis

The petition "Incline thine ear, O LORD" and "open thine eyes" uses anthropomorphic language—God doesn't literally have ears or eyes needing attention, but this vivid imagery expresses the prayer for divine attention and action. "See" emphasizes that God should observe Sennacherib's blasphemy. The phrase "all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God" correctly identifies the core offense—not threat to Judah but insult to God's honor. Hezekiah wisely appeals to God's jealousy for His own glory.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern prayers often included similar appeals for divine attention. However, Hezekiah prays to the living God, not dead idols that truly cannot hear.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does appealing to God's honor and glory strengthen our prayers?

2. What does it mean that attacks on God's people are ultimately attacks on God Himself?
3. How should we frame our needs in light of God's greater purposes and glory?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת	בְּאֵלָהִים	בְּאֵל	יִשְׁרָאֵל	וְאֵת	בְּכָלְבָּרִים
O LOR	of hosts	God	of Israel	that dwellest	between the cherubims
H3068	H6635	H430	H3478	H3427	H3742
אַתָּה	בְּאֵלָהִים	בְּאֵל	לְכָל	לְבָדְךָ	מַמְלָכָךְ
H859	H1931	God	H905	H3605	even thou alone of all the kingdoms
		H430			H4467
בָּאָרֶץ	אַתָּה	עָשָׂת	אַתָּה	הַשְׁמָמָה	וְאַתָּה
and earth	H859	thou hast made	H853	heaven	and earth
H776		H6213		H8064	H776

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 99:1 (Kingdom): The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.

Exodus 25:22 (References Israel): And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

Psalms 86:10 (References God): For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.

Psalms 80:1 (References Israel): Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

1 Samuel 4:4 (References God): So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

Hebrews 4:16 (Parallel theme): Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Isaiah 44:24 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

Colossians 1:16 (Creation): For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

John 1:3 (Creation): All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

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