

Isaiah 37:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Incline thine ear, O LORD, and hear; open thine eyes, O LORD, and see: and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God.

Analysis

The repeated "Incline thine ear...open thine eyes" emphasizes urgency and intensity. The additional "O LORD" is personal appeal to covenant relationship. "Hear all the words of Sennacherib" asks God to pay attention to every blasphemy. Hezekiah doesn't minimize or sanitize the enemy's words but lays them fully before God. This honest presentation of the threat demonstrates faith that God can handle the full truth of the situation. The prayer teaches that we don't need to make things sound better to get God's attention.

Historical Context

Repetition in Hebrew poetry and prayer emphasizes importance and intensity of feeling. Hezekiah's urgent repetition shows genuine distress alongside confident faith.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can we be completely honest with God about how bad our circumstances feel?
2. What does it mean to present our enemies' full accusations to God without minimizing them?
3. How does expressing intensity and urgency in prayer demonstrate faith rather than doubt?

Interlinear Text

הַטָּה	יְהִי הַטָּה	אַזְגָּב	וְשָׁמָע	פְּקַד ח	יְהִי הַפְּקַד	עִזִּים	וְרָא הַעִזִּים
Incline	O LORD	thine ear	and hear	open	O LORD	thine eyes	and see

¶ פָּנָא אֱלֹהִים לְמַכְנָה יְמִינָה
to reproach God the living

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 6:40 (References God): Now, my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

Psalms 17:6 (References God): I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech.

Isaiah 37:4 (Word): It may be the LORD thy God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God, and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that is left.

Psalms 74:22 (References God): Arise, O God, plead thine own cause: remember how the foolish man reproacheth thee daily.

1 Peter 3:12 (References Lord): For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

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