

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

Psalms 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

וּרְאֵה	עֵינֶיךָ	יְהוָה	פָּתַח	וּשְׁמִיעַ	אָזְנוֹךָ	יְהוָה	הִטָּה
and see	thine eyes	O LORD	open	and hear	thine ear	O LORD	Incline
H7200	H5869	H3068	H6491	H8085	H241	H3068	H5186
שָׁלַח	אֶשֶׁר	סַנְחֶרִיב	דְּבַר־י	כָּל	אֵת	וּשְׁמִיעַ	ע
which hath sent		of Sennacherib	all the words			and hear	
H7971	H834	H5576	H1697	H3605	H853	H8085	
חַיִּי	אֱלֹהֵי	לְחַרֵּץ					
the living	God	to reproach					
H2416	H430	H2778					

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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