

Isaiah 37:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is the word which the LORD hath spoken concerning him;
The virgin, the daughter of Zion, hath despised thee, and
laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken
her head at thee.

Analysis

The oracle's opening "This is the word which the LORD hath spoken concerning him" identifies Sennacherib as the object of judgment. The personification of Jerusalem as "the virgin, the daughter of Zion" emphasizes her protected status under God's care. The verbs "despised...laughed to scorn" and "shaken her head" depict victorious mockery—a complete reversal where the threatened becomes the mocker. This prophetic poetry assures that God will turn the tables, vindicating His people and humiliating the arrogant.

Historical Context

Feminine personification of cities was common in ancient Near Eastern literature. Jerusalem's "virgin" status emphasized her purity under God's protection.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God promise to vindicate those who trust Him against mockers?
2. What does Jerusalem's protected status teach about God's covenant faithfulness?
3. How should the promise of eventual vindication sustain us through present mockery?

Interlinear Text

עַל יְהוָה יְהִי כְּדָבָר אֲשֶׁר בְּדָבָר

H2088 This is the word H834 hath spoken H5921 which the LORD

H1697

H1696

H3068

בְּתוּלָת לְעֵג הַלְּבָב בְּתִי הַבְּתָא

concerning him The virgin hath despised thee and laughed

H0

H3932

H0

H1330

בְּתִי בְּתָא בְּצִי וְיַבְּשָׁא רְאַשׁ אֲפָרָא יְבָשָׁא הַנְּבָשָׁא

the daughter

of Zion

at thee

her head

hath shaken

the daughter

H1323

H6726

H310

H7218

H5128

H1323

יְרוּשָׁלָם:
of Jerusalem

H3389

Additional Cross-References

Job 16:4 (Word): I also could speak as ye do: if your soul were in my soul's stead, I could heap up words against you, and shake mine head at you.

Isaiah 1:8 (Parallel theme): And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.

Psalms 9:14 (Parallel theme): That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation.

Jeremiah 14:17 (Word): Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them; Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, with a very grievous blow.

Zechariah 2:10 (References Lord): Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD.

Lamentations 2:13 (References Jerusalem): What thing shall I take to witness for thee? what thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? what shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O virgin daughter of Zion? for thy breach is great like the sea: who can heal thee?

Zephaniah 3:14 (References Jerusalem): Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.