

Isaiah 37:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded: they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up.

Analysis

God explains the reality behind Assyria's victories: "their inhabitants were of small power" describes those conquered as deliberately weakened by God. "Dismayed and confounded" shows God caused their psychological defeat. The agricultural metaphors "as the grass of the field...as the green herb...as corn blasted before it be grown up" depict divinely-ordained weakness. This reveals that Assyria conquered weak opponents by God's permission, not through inherent superiority. Beating weakened opponents proves nothing about being able to defeat God's protected people.

Historical Context

Nations Assyria conquered often suffered internal strife or divine judgment, making them vulnerable. Israel's northern kingdom fell due to covenant unfaithfulness, not merely Assyrian might.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God control outcomes by sovereignly distributing strength and weakness?
2. What does it mean that apparent military superiority is actually divinely granted?
3. How should this affect our view of "successful" wicked people and nations?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁבִּיכָּן	כִּי	עַזְּבָנִי	כִּי	תִּתְּנַזֵּב
Therefore their inhabitants	were of small	power	they were dismayed	
H3427	H7116	H3027	H2865	
וְיִכְּבַּדְתָּם	שְׁדָה	עַשְׂבָּד	פִּי	בְּשָׁוֹר
and confounded	they were as the grass	of the field	and as the green	
H954	H1961	H6212	H7704	H3419
בְּשָׁא	וְשִׁׁידָם	בְּגַת	בְּגַת	לִפְנֵי
herb	as the grass	on the housetops	and as corn blasted	before
H1877	H2682	H1406	H7709	H6440
בְּשָׁא	וְשִׁׁידָם	הַשְׁׁמַרְתָּם	בְּגַת	לִפְנֵי
it be grown up				
				H7054

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 129:6 (Parallel theme): Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which withereth afore it groweth up: