

# 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

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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

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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

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

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וְיֹשְׁבֵיהֶן	קְצֵרֵי	יָד	חַתּוֹ		
Therefore their inhabitants	were of small	power	they were dismayed		
H3427	H7116	H3027	H2865		
וְנִשְׁחָתוּ	הֵיוּ	עַשְׂבֵּי	שָׂדֶה	! יִרְקֵה	
and confounded	H1961	they were as the grass	of the field	and as the green	
H954		H6212	H7704	H3419	
דֶּשֶׁא	חֶסֶד יֵר	גַּגֹּת	וְשִׂדָּה	לִפְנֵי י	קָמָה:
herb	as the grass	on the housetops	and as corn blasted	before	it be grown up
H1877	H2682	H1406	H7709	H6440	H7054

## Additional Cross-References

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