

Isaiah 37:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.

Analysis

The judgment imagery "I will put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips" depicts Sennacherib as a wild animal God will control. Ancient Near Eastern conquerors led captives with hooks and bridles, humiliating them. God will do to Assyria what Assyria did to others. "I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest" promises forced retreat without conquering Jerusalem. The punishment fits the crime—proud Assyria will be humiliated and controlled like a beast.

Historical Context

Assyrian art depicts conquered enemies led by nose rings and ropes, demonstrating dominance. God promises to treat Sennacherib the way he treated others.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God often judge sin by the very method used to sin against others?
2. What does the imagery of controlling proud nations like beasts teach about God's sovereignty?
3. How should the certainty of divine justice for the proud affect our response to arrogance?

Interlinear Text

עַל הַ שָׁאָנָב תְּבַצַּב אֶל יְהוָה
is come up against me and thy tumult because thy rage
H5927 H7600 H413 H3282 H7264

בְּשֶׁפֶת יְהוָה וּמְתִגִּיאָה בְּאָזְנוֹ וְשִׁמְמַת יְהוָה בְּאֹפֶת נֹחַ וְמַתְגִּיאָה בְּאַפְתָּן וְמַתְגִּיאָה בְּאַפְתָּן
in thy lips and my bridle in thy nose in thy mouth and my bridle therefore will I put into mine ears
H8193 H4964 H639 H2397 H7760 H241

בְּבָהָה בְּאַתְּ בְּאַתְּ יְבַת יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר בְּדַיְנָה בְּדַיְנָה וְיִבְשֶׁת יְבַת יְהוָה
by which thou camest by the way by the way and I will turn thee back
H935 H1870 H834 H7725

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 30:28 (Parallel theme): And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err.

Isaiah 10:12 (Parallel theme): Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks.

Isaiah 37:34 (Parallel theme): By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD.

Ezekiel 38:4 (Parallel theme): And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

Ezekiel 29:4 (Parallel theme): But I will put hooks in thy jaws, and I will cause the fish of thy rivers to stick unto thy scales, and I will bring thee up out of the midst of thy rivers, and all the fish of thy rivers shall stick unto thy scales.

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