

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	וְשֹׁאֲנוֹךְ	אֵלַי	הַתְּרָגְזוֹךְ	יְעַן	
is come up	against me and thy tumult		Because thy rage		
H5927	H7600	H413	H7264	H3282	
בְּשִׁפְתֶיךָ	וּמִתְגִּי	בְּאַפִּיךָ	חֲחִי	וְשִׁמְתִי	בְּאָזְנִי
in thy lips	and my bridle	in thy nose	my hook	therefore will I put	into mine ears
H8193	H4964	H639	H2397	H7760	H241
בָּהּ:	בְּ אֵת	אֲשֶׁר	בְּדֶרֶךְ	וְהִשְׁ יָבֹתִיךָ	
	by which thou camest		by the way	and I will turn thee back	
H0	H935	H834	H1870	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.