

Isaiah 37:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and of blasphemy: for the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth.

Analysis

The message "This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and of blasphemy" accurately diagnoses the situation's spiritual dimension. The metaphor "children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth" depicts hopeless desperation—life is near but impossible to achieve without intervention. This vivid imagery shows Hezekiah recognizes Judah's complete inability to save themselves. Acknowledging utter helplessness is prerequisite for receiving God's miraculous deliverance. The admission of weakness demonstrates mature faith.

Historical Context

Childbirth without strength to deliver meant certain death in the ancient world. This metaphor communicated desperate extremity to Isaiah.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does admitting complete helplessness position us to receive God's intervention?
2. Why is recognizing our inability essential before experiencing God's power?
3. What situations in your life feel like being unable to bring forth what is needed?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	רְאֵם	יְהוָה	חִזְקִיָּהוּ	וּמִמְּבָרֶךְ	צָבָה
And they said	H413	H3541	And they said	Hezekiah	This day of trouble
H559		H559	H2396	H3117	H6869
וְתַזְכַּחַת	הַ	וְתַזְכַּחַת	הַ	בְּ	בְּנִים
and of rebuke	and of blasphemy	This day	H2088	H3588	are come for the children
H8433	H5007	H3117	H935	H1121	
עַד	מִשְׁבֵּךְ	וְכִי	אֵל	לְלִידָה:	
to the birth	and there is not strength	H3581	H369	to bring forth	
H5704	H4866			H3205	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 66:9 (Parallel theme): Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God.

Hosea 13:13 (Parallel theme): The sorrows of a travailing woman shall come upon him: he is an unwise son; for he should not stay long in the place of the breaking forth of children.

Psalms 50:15 (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

2 Kings 19:3 (Parallel theme): And they said unto him, Thus saith Hezekiah, This day is a day of trouble, and of rebuke, and blasphemy: for the children are come to the birth, and there is not strength to bring forth.

Isaiah 33:2 (Parallel theme): O LORD, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee: be thou their arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble.

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