

Isaiah 37:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it.

Analysis

The prophecy "he shall not come into this city" is unambiguous—Sennacherib will not enter Jerusalem. The specifics "nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it" enumerate siege tactics that won't happen. This detailed prediction demonstrates God's comprehensive protection. The precision serves as test of true prophecy—any deviation would prove Isaiah false. The absolute certainty "Thus saith the LORD" stakes divine reputation on the outcome.

Historical Context

Standard siege warfare included archery, shield walls, and siege ramps. God promises none of these will occur, a falsifiable prediction that would be dramatically fulfilled.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's willingness to make specific, falsifiable predictions demonstrate confidence in His power?
2. What comfort comes from God's detailed promises of protection?
3. How should fulfilled biblical prophecy strengthen our trust in unfulfilled promises?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר מִלְּךָ יְהוָה אֱמֶת רַקְבָּה |
H3651 H3541 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria
H559 H3068 H413 H4428 H804

שַׁם יְמִינְךָ לֹא יָבֹא אֶל יְרֵעַ יְרֵעַ אֶל תִּזְהַלֵּךְ |
H3808 H935 He shall not come H413 into this city H2063 H3808 H3384 H8033

אֶל יְפִירְכָּה מִגְּדָלָה כִּי קָדָם בָּהּ וְלֹא מִבְּאַרְבָּה |
an arrow H3808 H935 there nor come before H6923 it with shields H4043 H3808 H8210 H5921

סַלְלָה:

a bank
H5550

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