

Isaiah 37:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD.

Analysis

The declaration "By the way that he came, by the same shall he return" promises complete retreat. "Shall not come into this city" repeats the promise for emphasis. Sennacherib's retreat by the same route he came depicts total military failure—no conquest, no plunder, just humiliating withdrawal. The repetition underscores certainty. This reversal demonstrates that human pride and power mean nothing when God determines the outcome.

Historical Context

Military campaigns typically ended with either conquest and plunder or devastating defeat. Mere withdrawal without engagement was unusual and humiliating.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes defeat enemies without His people needing to fight?

2. What does forced retreat without accomplishing objectives teach about God's sovereignty over plans?
3. How should this encourage us when facing seemingly unstoppable opposition?

Interlinear Text

בְּדַךְ רְגֵל	אֲשֶׁר	וְיַבְּאֵת	בְּהַ	וְיַבְּרֵךְ	אֲלֵיכֶם
By the way	H834	and shall not come	H0	by the same shall he return	H413
H1870		H935		H7725	

וְיַבְּרֵךְ יְהִי	נָאָם	וְיַבְּאֵת	לֹא	בְּזַעַם	וְיַבְּאֵת	בְּזַעַם	וְיַבְּרֵךְ יְהִי
the LORD	H3068	saith	H5002	and shall not come	H935	and shall not come	H3808
H3068		H5002		H935		H2063	

בְּזַעַם יְהִי	נָאָם	וְיַבְּאֵת	לֹא	בְּזַעַם	וְיַבְּאֵת	לֹא	בְּזַעַם	וְיַבְּרֵךְ
the LORD	H3068	saith	H5002	and shall not come	H935	and shall not come	H3808	the same
H3068		H5002		H935		H3808		H2063

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 37:29 (Parallel theme): 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.

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