

Isaiah 37:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

Analysis

The fulfillment "the angel of the LORD went forth" describes supernatural intervention. The devastating result "smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred and fourscore and five thousand" (185,000 dead) shows God's power. The detail "when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses" emphasizes the sudden, overnight nature of judgment. No human army killed these soldiers—God acted directly. This miracle definitively proved YHWH's superiority over Assyrian gods and military might.

Historical Context

Ancient historian Herodotus records a similar event where mice (possibly plague-carrying) destroyed an Assyrian army. Whatever the secondary means, God sovereignly caused the destruction.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes use supernatural means to accomplish what human effort cannot?
2. What does this dramatic judgment teach about God's power to defend His people?
3. How should this miracle encourage faith when facing overwhelming opposition?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֹא	מְלֹא	הָיָה	וְקָרָא	בְּמִצְבַּת	אֲשֶׁר
went forth	Then the angel	of the LORD	and smote	in the camp	of the Assyrians
H3318	H4397	H3068	H5221	H4264	H804
מֵא	וְשָׁמְנָה	מֵא	אֶלָף	וְשָׁבַע	וְשָׁבַע
a hundred	and fourscore	and five	thousand	and when they arose early	
H3967	H8084	H2568	H505	H7925	
בְּרֹא	כָּל	וְהָיָה	פְּנֵי	מִתְּהִימָּה	
in the morning	H2009	H3605	corpses	behold they were all dead	
H1242			H6297	H4191	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 10:12 (References Lord): 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.

2 Kings 19:35 (References Lord): And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.

Isaiah 31:8 (Parallel theme): Then shall the Assyrian fall with the sword, not of a mighty man; and the sword, not of a mean man, shall devour him: but he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be discomfited.

2 Samuel 24:16 (References Lord): And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.

Acts 12:23 (References Lord): And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.