

Isaiah 37:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esar-haddon his son reigned in his stead.

Analysis

The final judgment "as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god" shows ironic timing—Sennacherib is killed while honoring the deity that couldn't protect him. "Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword" fulfills God's prophecy (verse 7) precisely. Assassination by his own sons demonstrates that fleeing God's judgment provides no safety. "Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead" shows dynastic instability. The detailed fulfillment validates Isaiah's prophetic authority and God's sovereign control over history.

Historical Context

Assyrian records confirm Sennacherib's assassination in 681 BC, twenty years after the Jerusalem campaign. Esarhaddon's inscriptions mention putting down a rebellion, likely by his brothers.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does precise fulfillment of prophecy demonstrate God's control over history?
2. What does judgment finding Sennacherib even in his god's temple teach about the inability to escape God?
3. How should fulfilled prophecy strengthen our confidence in unfulfilled biblical promises?

Interlinear Text

ה אָיִם	H1961	מִשְׁפְּתִין הָ	H7812	בְּ יִתְּ	H1004	נִסְרֵן	H5268
	H1931	And it came to pass as he was worshipping		in the house		of Nisroch	
אֱלֹהֵי	H430	אֶזְרָחָת לְךָ	H152	וְשָׁרָא צָר	H8272	הַכְּהֻן בָּנָו	H1121
his god		that Adrammelech		and Sharezer		smote	H5221
						him with the sword	H2719
וְהַמְּלָא	H1992	וְהַמְּלָא	H4422	אֶת	H776	אֶתְכָּרְבֵּן	H780
and they escaped		into the land		of Armenia		reigned	H4427
וְהַמְּלָא	H634	וְהַמְּלָא	H1121		H8478		H0
and Esarhaddon		his son					

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 8:4 (Parallel theme): And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.

Jeremiah 51:27 (Kingdom): Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillers.

Ezra 4:2 (Kingdom): Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esar-haddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.

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