

Isaiah 37:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It may be the LORD thy God will hear the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God, and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that is left.

Analysis

Hezekiah's request "lift up thy prayer for the remnant that is left" demonstrates humility—the king asks the prophet to intercede rather than relying solely on his own prayers. The hope that "the LORD thy God will hear the words of Rabshakeh" and "reprove" him shows faith that God has heard the blasphemy and will vindicate His name. The "remnant" concept is crucial—God preserves a faithful few through judgment. Hezekiah identifies Judah as this remnant, trusting God's covenant promises to preserve His people.

Historical Context

After Sennacherib conquered 46 fortified cities in Judah, only Jerusalem and a few cities remained—literally a remnant. This desperate situation sets up God's dramatic rescue.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the remnant concept encourage believers during times when faith seems rare?
2. What does Hezekiah's request for intercession teach about corporate prayer?
3. How does God vindicate His name when it has been blasphemed?

Interlinear Text

בְּדָבָר יְמִין אֵת אָלֹהִים יְהִי הָשָׁם עַזְלָא

H194

hath heard

It may be the LORD

God

H853

the words

H8085

H3068

H430

H1697

אָדָנִי אָשָׁר וּרְאֵלָה בְּבָשָׁק הַ

of Rabshakeh

H834

hath sent

שָׁלַח וְ

מֶלֶךְ

אָשָׁר וּרְאֵלָה

of Assyria

his master

H7262

H7971

H4428

H804

H113

אָשָׁר בְּדָבָר יְמִין לְסַרְךָ

to reproach

God

the living

וְהַזֶּה יְמִין

the words

H834

H2778

H430

H2416

H3198

H1697

בְּעֵד תִּפְלֶה הַנִּשְׁאָלָה יְהִי הָשָׁם עַזְלָא

hath heard

It may be the LORD

God

אָלֹהִים יְהִי הָשָׁם עַזְלָא

wherefore lift up thy prayer

H1157

H8085

H3068

H430

H5375

H8605

בְּנִמְצָאָה הַשְׁאָר יְתָה

for the remnant

that is left

H7611

H4672

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 36:20 (References God): Who are they among all the gods of these lands, that have delivered their land out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?

Isaiah 1:9 (References Lord): Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

Isaiah 10:22 (Parallel theme): For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness.

Psalms 106:23 (Parallel theme): Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.

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