

Isaiah 37:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he heard say concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, He is come forth to make war with thee. And when he heard it, he sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

Analysis

The report about Tirhakah king of Ethiopia/Cush coming to fight disrupts Sennacherib's plans. God uses secondary causes—in this case, geopolitical competition—to accomplish His purposes. The text says Sennacherib "sent messengers again" to Hezekiah, showing that military pressure from another front motivated renewed attempts to secure Jerusalem's surrender quickly. God sovereignly orchestrates international events to deliver His people, often through natural means rather than only miraculous intervention.

Historical Context

Tirhakah was a Kushite pharaoh who ruled Egypt's 25th Dynasty. His military movements threatened Assyrian western campaigns, creating strategic complications for Sennacherib.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God use natural circumstances and geopolitical events to accomplish His purposes?
2. What does divine sovereignty through secondary causes teach about God's comprehensive providence?
3. How should we view "coincidental" timing of events that deliver us from difficulty?

Interlinear Text

לִאמְרָה:	כֹּש	מֶלֶךְ	תְּרִיכָּה	עַל	וַיִּשְׁמַע	וְאַתָּה
And he heard	H5921	concerning Tirhakah		king	of Ethiopia	say
	H8085		H8640	H4428	H3568	H559
אֵל	מֶלֶאכִים	וְשָׁלַח	וַיִּשְׁמַע	אַתָּה	לְהַלְלָה	וְאַתָּה
He is come forth	to make war	H854	And he heard	it he sent	messengers	H413
	H3318	H3898	H8085	H7971		H4397
לִאמְרָה:	חִזְקִיָּהוּ					
to Hezekiah	say					
	H2396	H559				

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