

Isaiah 38:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down.

Analysis

The miraculous sign "I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward" demonstrates God's power over creation. Reversing the sun's shadow defies natural law, proving God's supernatural intervention. The specificity "ten degrees" and reference to "Ahaz's sun dial" provide measurable verification. This cosmic sign for one man's healing demonstrates God's personal care—He will rearrange celestial mechanics to assure His servant. The miracle validates the promise of healing.

Historical Context

The mechanism of this miracle is debated—whether earth's rotation temporarily reversed or light refracted unusually. Whatever the means, the result was observable reversal of the shadow.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes provide extraordinary signs to confirm His promises?
2. What does God's willingness to alter natural processes teach about His power and care?
3. How should observable miracles strengthen faith in God's invisible spiritual work?

Interlinear Text

הִנֵּנִי י'	וְתָשָׁב	אֶת	צֶל	בְּמַעַל וְת	אֲשֶׁר
H2005	Behold I will bring again	H853	the shadow	by which degrees	H834
	H7725		H6738	H4609	
יָרְדָה:	בְּמַעַל וְת	אֵהָז	הַשֶּׁשׁ מִשָּׁ	אֲחֵרָנָיִת	עֶשְׂרִי
it was gone down	by which degrees	of Ahaz	So the sun	backward	ten
H3381	H4609	H271	H8121	H322	H6235
בְּמַעַל וְת	וְתָשָׁב	הַשֶּׁשׁ מִשָּׁ	עֶשְׂרִי	בְּמַעַל וְת	
by which degrees	Behold I will bring again	So the sun	ten	by which degrees	
H4609	H7725	H8121	H6235	H4609	
בְּמַעַל וְת	אֲשֶׁר	יָרְדָה:			
by which degrees	H834	it was gone down			
H4609		H3381			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 16:1 (Parallel theme): The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

2 Chronicles 32:24 (Parallel theme): In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto the LORD: and he spake unto him, and he gave him a sign.