

Isaiah 39:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At that time Merodach-baladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered.

Analysis

The Babylonian envoy's timing (during Hezekiah's recovery) appears friendly but masks strategic intelligence-gathering for future conquest. This teaches that Satan often attacks through flattery and friendship when frontal assault fails. Merodach-baladan's anti-Assyrian alliance seemed politically wise but led to spiritual compromise and eventual judgment.

Historical Context

Merodach-baladan (Marduk-apla-iddina II) ruled Babylon 721-710 and 704-703 BC, constantly rebelling against Assyria. This embassy sought Judean alliance against their common enemy, but God had forbidden such treaties (Isaiah 30:1-2).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. When has apparent 'friendship' from worldly powers led you toward spiritual compromise?

2. How do you discern between legitimate relationships and spiritually dangerous alliances?

Interlinear Text

בְּלֹאֵד בְּגִיא	בְּלֹאֵד בְּגִיא	בְּלֹאֵד בְּגִיא	בְּלֹאֵד בְּגִיא	בְּלֹאֵד בְּגִיא	בְּלֹאֵד בְּגִיא	בְּלֹאֵד בְּגִיא
At that time	H1931	sent	H0	Merodachbaladan	the son	of Baladan
H6256		H7971		H4757	H1121	H1081
king	of Babylon	letters	and a present	to Hezekiah	for he had heard	
H4428	H894	H5612	H4503	H2396	H8085	
בְּכִי	בְּכִי	בְּכִי	בְּכִי	בְּכִי	בְּכִי	בְּכִי
H3588	that he had been sick	and was recovered				
	H2470		H2388			

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