

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

בַּעֲתָ	הָיָה יָא	שָׁלַח	מֶרְדַּךְ בֶּלְאֲדָן	בֶּן	בֶּלְאֲדָן
At that time	H1931	sent	H0	Merodachbaladan	the son of Baladan
H6256		H7971		H4757	H1121 H1081
מֶלֶךְ	בָּבֶל	סָפַר יָם	וּמִנְחָה	אֶל	חֶזְקִיָּהוּ
king	of Babylon	letters	and a present	H413	to Hezekiah
H4428	H894	H5612	H4503		H2396 H8085
כִּי	חָלָה	וַיִּשְׁקָף			
H3588	that he had been sick	and was recovered			
	H2470	H2388			

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