

Isaiah 39:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:

Analysis

Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts—the prophetic formula introducing divine judgment. After Hezekiah's foolish display of treasures to Babylonian envoys (vv.1-4), Isaiah pronounces consequences. **The word of the LORD of hosts** (דְּבָרֵי הָיָה צְבָאֹת, devar-YHWH Tseva'ot) emphasizes divine authority—this isn't Isaiah's opinion but God's sovereign decree.

The verse's brevity creates dramatic tension. "Hear" (שְׁמַע, shema) demands attention and obedience, not merely auditory reception. What follows (vv.6-7) will reverse Hezekiah's pride: everything shown to Babylon will be carried to Babylon. The irony is sharp—Hezekiah sought to impress Babylon with Judah's wealth; God decrees that Babylon will take that wealth. The chapter demonstrates how pride and political maneuvering without seeking God's counsel leads to disaster, even for otherwise godly kings.

Historical Context

This occurred during Hezekiah's reign (ca. 715-686 BC), after his recovery from near-fatal illness (Isaiah 38). Merodach-baladan of Babylon sent envoys ostensibly congratulating Hezekiah's recovery, but actually seeking alliance against Assyria (39:1). Hezekiah foolishly showed them everything (v.2), seeking to impress potential allies. Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled 115+ years later when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem (586 BC), plundered the temple and palace,

and exiled the royal family to Babylon (2 Kings 24-25). This demonstrates long-range prophetic fulfillment.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the phrase 'Hear the word of the LORD of hosts' establish divine authority over human political schemes?
2. What does Hezekiah's failure to consult God before showing treasures teach about seeking divine wisdom in decisions?
3. How does Isaiah's prophecy demonstrate that present actions have long-term consequences, even beyond our lifetime?

Interlinear Text

Then said	Isaiah	H413	to Hezekiah	Hear	the word	of the LORD
H559	H3470		H2396	H8085	H1697	H3068

אַבָּאֹת:

of hosts

H6635

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 15:16 (References Lord): Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.