

Isaiah 39:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

Analysis

And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away—the prophecy targets Hezekiah's descendants specifically. The phrase **that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget** (אֲשֶׁר יֵצְאוּ מִמֶּךָ אֲשֶׁר תּוֹלִיד, asher yetse'u mimmekha asher tolid) emphasizes direct lineage—your own biological offspring. This personally connects judgment to Hezekiah's prideful display.

Shall they take away (יִקָּחֻ, yiqachu)—Babylon will seize them. **And they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon** (וְהָיוּ סָרִיסִים בְּהֵיכַל מֶלֶךְ בָּבֶל, vehayu sarisim beheikhal melek Bavel)—the ultimate humiliation. Sarisim (eunuchs/court officials) could mean literal castration or high court officials, but the term carries connotations of emasculation and servitude. Royal sons would serve the very king Hezekiah tried to impress.

This was precisely fulfilled in Daniel and his companions (Daniel 1:3-7)—young men of royal/noble descent taken to Babylon, trained in Babylonian ways, given Babylonian names, and made to serve in Nebuchadnezzar's court. The prophecy shows how attempting to secure political advantage through human wisdom apart from God leads to the opposite result: dependence becomes captivity.

Historical Context

Fulfilled 115+ years after Isaiah spoke it, when Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem (605-586 BC). Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (renamed Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego) were among the first exiles (605 BC, Daniel 1:1-6). The text says they were of 'the king's seed, and of the princes' (Daniel 1:3). Later exiles included King Jehoiachin and his sons (2 Kings 24:12-15). The prophecy's precise fulfillment demonstrates God's sovereignty over history and the serious consequences of pride and faithless political maneuvering.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does the fulfillment of this prophecy 115+ years later teach about God's sovereignty over history and His faithfulness to His word?
2. How does the irony of Hezekiah's sons serving Babylon (the very nation he tried to impress) illustrate the principle that pride brings humiliation?
3. What warning does this give about making alliances, decisions, or displays of strength without first seeking God's counsel?

Interlinear Text

וּמִבְּנֵי יָךְ	אֲשֶׁר	יֵצֵא וְ	מִמֶּךָ	אֲשֶׁר
And of thy sons	H834	that shall issue	H4480	H834
H1121		H3318		
תֵּנוּלָ יָד		יִקַּח חַיִּי		וְהָיוּ
from thee which thou shalt beget	H3205	shall they take away	H3947	H1961
וְהָיוּ כְּסִרִּים		בְּהֵיכַל לַ	מֶלֶךְ	בָּבֶל:
and they shall be eunuchs	H5631	in the palace	of the king	of Babylon
		H1964	H4428	H894

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 24:12 (Kingdom): And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.

2 Chronicles 36:10 (Kingdom): And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.