

Isaiah 7:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall hiss for the fly that is in the uttermost part of the rivers of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria.

Analysis

The imagery of the LORD 'hissing' for Egypt (the fly) and Assyria (the bee) depicts God sovereignly summoning nations as instruments of judgment. The insect metaphors suggest both insignificance relative to God and capacity to inflict pain on Judah. This double threat—Egypt and Assyria competing for control—would make Judah a contested buffer zone. The imagery demonstrates God's control over foreign powers, using them to accomplish His purposes while they pursue their own agendas.

Historical Context

Throughout the 8th-7th centuries BC, Judah was caught between Egyptian and Assyrian (later Babylonian) imperial competition, suffering invasions from both sides.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's use of ungodly nations for judgment purposes demonstrate comprehensive sovereignty?
2. What modern 'flies' and 'bees' might God be summoning for refining discipline?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| וְיִהְיֶה | בַּיּוֹם | וְאַיִלְלָה | וְיִשְׁרָקְלָה | וְיִהְיֶה |
| H1961 | And it shall come to pass in that day | H1931 | shall hiss | that the LORD |
| | H3117 | | H8319 | H3068 |
| מִצְרַיִם | יָאָרֶת | מִצְרַיִם | יָאָרֶת | מִצְרַיִם |
| for the fly | that is in the uttermost part | of the rivers | of Egypt | of Egypt |
| H2070 | H834 | H7097 | H2975 | H4714 |
| אַשְׁוּרָה: | בְּאַרְצָה | אַשְׁוּרָה: | בְּאַרְצָה | אַשְׁוּרָה: |
| and for the bee | that is in the land | of Assyria | of Assyria | of Assyria |
| H1682 | H834 | H776 | H804 | H776 |

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 5:26 (Parallel theme): And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:

Isaiah 31:1 (References Lord): Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

Deuteronomy 1:44 (Parallel theme): And the Amorites, which dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chased you, as bees do, and destroyed you in Seir, even unto Hormah.

Deuteronomy 7:20 (References Lord): Moreover the LORD thy God will send the hornet among them, until they that are left, and hide themselves from thee, be destroyed.

Joshua 24:12 (Parallel theme): And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out from before you, even the two kings of the Amorites; but not with thy sword, nor with thy bow.

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