

# Deuteronomy 32:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.

## Analysis

**For the LORD shall judge his people** (כִּי־יְהֹוָה יִנְחַם) — din means to judge, vindicate, or execute justice. God judges Israel both in discipline (vv. 15-27) and in vindication against their oppressors (vv. 34-43). **And repent himself for his servants** — the Hebrew yitnachem (repent/relent/have compassion) doesn't imply God changes morally but that He responds to changed circumstances with appropriate action. When Israel reaches extremity, God's covenant loyalty moves Him to intervention.

**When he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left** (כִּי־רָאָה פִּיאָזְלָת יָד וְאַפְסָעַת עַצְוֹר וְעַזּוֹב) — azlat yad (power is gone, literally "hand has departed") indicates total helplessness. 'Atzur (shut up) and 'azuv (left/forsaken) likely mean "bond and free" (ESV) or "slave and free" — a merism indicating totality: absolutely no one remains to help. Only when Israel exhausts all human resources does God act, teaching dependence on Him alone.

## Historical Context

This pattern of discipline-unto-restoration recurred throughout Israel's history: Egyptian bondage, Philistine/Canaanite oppression (Judges), Babylonian exile. Each time Israel reached apparent extinction, God intervened to preserve a remnant, demonstrating His covenant is irrevocable despite Israel's unfaithfulness.

The church fathers saw this as typological of Christ's saving work when humanity reached spiritual bankruptcy.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Have you experienced God's intervention only after reaching the end of your own resources and self-sufficiency?
2. How does God's covenant faithfulness to judge and restore Israel demonstrate His character toward His people today?

## Interlinear Text

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יְהִי	יְהִי	וְיִהְיֶה	עִם	עִלְלָה	עַבְדֵי
H3588	<b>shall judge</b>	<b>For the LORD</b>	<b>his people</b>	H5921	<b>himself for his servants</b>
H1777		H3068	H5971		H5650

וְיִתְחַנֶּן	וְיִרְאֶה	וְיִלְלָת	וְאֵת
<b>and repent</b>	<b>when he seeth</b>	<b>is gone</b>	<b>that their power</b>
H5162	H7200	H235	H3027

וְאֵת	וְעַזְבוּ:	וְעַזְבָּה:
<b>and there is none</b>	<b>shut up</b>	<b>or left</b>
H657	H6113	H5800

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 135:14** (Judgment): For the LORD will judge his people, and he will repent himself concerning his servants.

**Psalms 106:45** (Repentance): And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies.

**1 Kings 14:10** (Parallel theme): Therefore, behold, I will bring evil upon the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as a man taketh away dung, till it be all gone.

**2 Kings 14:26** (References Lord): For the LORD saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel.

**Judges 2:18** (Judgment): And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.

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