

# Ezekiel 11:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will bring you out of the midst thereof, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and will execute judgments among you.

## Analysis

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God declares 'I will bring you out of the midst thereof, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and will execute judgments among you.' This announces exile and foreign conquest. The Hebrew *natan* (נָתַן, 'deliver' or 'give') indicates God actively handing Jerusalem's leaders over to Babylon. God uses 'strangers' (*zarim*, זָרִים)—foreign nations—to execute His covenant curses.

The phrase 'execute judgments' (*asah shephatim*, עָשָׂה שְׁפָטִים) indicates formal, judicial action. God's judgments aren't arbitrary but follow covenant stipulations. Deuteronomy 28:25-68 warned of foreign conquest and exile as curses for covenant violation. Ezekiel announces these curses are now being executed. God's righteousness requires He fulfill both covenant blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience.

From a Reformed perspective, God's use of pagan nations to judge His people demonstrates absolute sovereignty—even enemies unwittingly serve His purposes. Babylon thinks it acts from imperial ambition, but God orchestrates events to fulfill covenant warnings and accomplish redemptive purposes through judgment. This illustrates common grace and providence—God governs even those who don't acknowledge Him.

## Historical Context

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Historical records confirm Babylonian conquest and exile. The Babylonian Chronicle documents Nebuchadnezzar's campaigns, Jerusalem's capture, and deportations in 597 and 586 BC. Thousands were exiled to Babylon, including political and religious leaders. The phrase 'hands of strangers' was fulfilled literally as Judah's elite faced Babylonian judgment at Riblah (2 Kings 25:18-21) where many were executed.

This fulfilled Moses' warnings in Deuteronomy 28:49-52 about a nation from afar besieging Israel's cities. The Torah's covenant curses weren't empty threats but divine commitments to maintain covenant integrity through blessing or curse. Ezekiel's generation experienced the reality of these ancient warnings, demonstrating Scripture's reliability across centuries.

## 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. How does God's sovereignty over pagan nations comfort believers facing opposition from worldly powers?
2. What does the fulfillment of ancient covenant warnings teach about taking God's Word seriously?
3. In what ways does understanding judgment as covenant faithfulness (not arbitrary anger) shape your view of God's character?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהוֹצֵאתִי י	אֶתְכֶם	מִתּוֹךְ ה	וְנָתַתִּי י	אֶתְךָ ם
And I will bring you out	H853	of the midst	thereof and deliver	H853
H3318		H8432	H5414	
בְּיַד	זָרִים	וְעָשָׂה יְתִי	בְּךָ ם	שְׁפָטִים:
you into the hands	of strangers	and will execute	H0	judgments
H3027	H2114	H6213		H8201

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 5:8** (Judgment): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations.

**Psalms 106:41** (Parallel theme): And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them.

**Deuteronomy 28:36** (Parallel theme): The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone.

**Ezekiel 16:41** (Judgment): And they shall burn thine houses with fire, and execute judgments upon thee in the sight of many women: and I will cause thee to cease from playing the harlot, and thou also shalt give no hire any more.