

# Ezekiel 21:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

## Analysis

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**And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,** The prophetic formula introduces the 'sword oracle'—one of Scripture's most vivid judgment prophecies. Chapter 21 personifies God's sword executing judgment against Jerusalem. The recurring imagery of drawn, sharpened, polished swords creates atmosphere of imminent, inescapable violence. This oracle demonstrates that judgment isn't abstract theology but concrete historical reality involving real suffering.

## Historical Context

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Delivered circa 590-589 BC as Babylon prepared to besiege Jerusalem, this prophecy warned that God's sword (Babylon) was drawn, sharpened, and ready to strike. Within months, Nebuchadnezzar's armies surrounded the city. The sword oracle's timing—just before actual siege—gave final warning while demonstrating prophetic foreknowledge of imminent events.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does vivid judgment imagery (swords, violence) prevent abstract minimizing of divine wrath?
2. What does the timing of prophecy (just before fulfillment) teach about God's final warnings?
3. In what ways should we balance speaking about judgment graphically versus avoiding gratuitous violence?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיֹאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לְאַחֲרֵי:  
H1961 And the word of the LORD H413 came unto me saying  
H1697 H3068 H559

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