

Ezekiel 23:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall come against thee with chariots, wagons, and wheels, and with an assembly of people, which shall set against thee buckler and shield and helmet round about: and I will set judgment before them, and they shall judge thee according to their judgments.

Analysis

And they shall come against thee with chariots, wagons, and wheels describes siege engines and military technology of Babylonian warfare. And with an assembly of people indicates massive troop numbers. Which shall set against thee buckler and shield and helmet round about details complete military encirclement —defensive equipment becoming offensive as soldiers surround the city. And I will set judgment before them, and they shall judge thee according to their judgments declares God delegates to Babylon execution of His judicial sentence. God's sovereignty extends over pagan kingdoms; He uses their judgments to accomplish His justice. This is compatibilism: human agency (Babylon judges) and divine sovereignty (God sets judgment before them) working simultaneously without contradiction.

Historical Context

Babylonian siege warfare was sophisticated: battering rams, siege towers, earthen ramps, and complete encirclement to starve cities into submission. Archaeological evidence from Lachish and other sites confirms devastating effectiveness of these methods. Jerusalem's walls were eventually breached after prolonged siege.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God use human agency to accomplish divine judgment?
2. What does it mean that pagan judgments can fulfill God's justice?
3. How should we understand divine sovereignty in historical catastrophes?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵלֶּה	עַל	אֶת	הָצָא	כִּכְבָּרֶת	וְגַלְגָּלֶת
And they shall come	H5921	against thee with chariots	H2021	wagons	and wheels
	H935			H7393	H1534
וְבְּקָרְבָּן	עַמְּךָ	יְמָנֶךָ	אֶצְבָּעָךְ	וְמַגְנִין	וְקָרְבָּן
and with an assembly	H6951	of people	H5971	against thee buckler	H6793
				and shield	H4043
				and helmet	H6959
וְשָׁלַחַת	רְבָּעָת	סְבִּיבָּת	וְנִתְתַּתִּי	לִפְנֵיכֶם	בְּמִשְׁפְּטֵיכֶם:
which shall set	H5921	round about	H5439	and I will set	H5414
				before	H6440
				judgment	H4941
וְשָׁפֹט	וְלֹא	בְּמִשְׁפְּטֵיכֶם:			
them and they shall judge	H8199	judgment	H4941		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 47:3 (Parallel theme): At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of his strong horses, at the rushing of his chariots, and at the rumbling of his wheels, the fathers shall not look back to their children for feebleness of hands;

Ezekiel 23:45 (Judgment): And the righteous men, they shall judge them after the manner of adulteresses, and after the manner of women that shed blood; because they are adulteresses, and blood is in their hands.

Ezekiel 26:10 (Parallel theme): By reason of the abundance of his horses their dust shall cover thee: thy walls shall shake at the noise of the horsemen, and of the wheels, and of the chariots, when he shall enter into thy gates, as men enter into a city wherein is made a breach.

Ezekiel 16:38 (Judgment): And I will judge thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy.

2 Samuel 24:14 (Parallel theme): And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.

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