

# 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

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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

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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

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**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

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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

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וְבָאוּ And they shall come H935	עַל יָדְךָ H5921	הַ צֶנֶן H2021	כָּבָב H7393	וְגִלְגָּל H1534
וּבְקָה ל and with an assembly H6951	עַמִּי יִם H5971	צָנָה H6793	וּמִגֶּן H4043	וְקִוֵּב ע and helmet H6959
יֵשׁ יָמוֹ which shall set H7760	עַל יָדְךָ H5921	סָבִיב H5439	וְנָתַתִּי י and I will set H5414	לְפָנֵיהֶם H6440
וְשִׁפְטוּ them and they shall judge H8199	בְּמִשְׁפָּטֵיהֶם judgment H4941			

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.