

# Ezekiel 38:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:

## Analysis

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This prophetic word demonstrates God's sovereign control over history and nations. Even pagan empires and hostile coalitions serve God's purposes while remaining morally accountable for their actions. This Reformed understanding of providence affirms that nothing occurs outside God's decree, yet human agents bear full responsibility for their choices. The prophecy serves pastoral purposes: assuring God's people of His protection, warning enemies of certain judgment, and demonstrating that history moves toward God's appointed end. These prophecies find layered fulfillment—immediate historical, ongoing spiritual, and ultimate eschatological.

## Historical Context

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This passage was delivered during the Babylonian exile (c. 586-571 BCE) after Jerusalem's destruction. The exiled community grappled with theological and practical questions: Why had judgment come? Would restoration occur? How should they live in exile? The historical context of ancient Near Eastern covenant patterns, conquest and exile practices, and prophetic literature provides essential background. Archaeological discoveries from this period illuminate the exile's realities and the return's historical fulfillment. Yet Ezekiel's prophecies extend beyond immediate historical context to find fuller realization in Christ and the church, with ultimate consummation in the new creation.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse deepen your understanding of God's character, purposes, or ways of working in history?
2. What specific application does this passage call you to make in your current circumstances or spiritual life?
3. How does this Old Testament passage illuminate New Testament teaching about Christ, salvation, or the church?

## Interlinear Text

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כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה אֱדָנִי

H3541

Thus saith

H559

the Lord

H136

H3068

H1961

בֵּי יוֹם

It shall also come to pass that at the same time

H3117

וְיָבֹאוּ הָאֵלֶּי

H1931

come

H5927

עַל דְּבָרִים

shall things

H1697

H5921

לִבְּךָ

into thy mind

H3824

וְחַשְׁבֹּתְךָ

and thou shalt think

H2803

מַחְשַׁבְתְּךָ

thought

H4284

רָעָה

an evil

H7451

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 36:4** (Evil): He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil.

**Micah 2:1** (Evil): Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.

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