

# Ezekiel 38:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

## Analysis

---

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

---

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**

---

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

## **Study Questions**

---

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

---

וְרָעַשׁ וּ	פָּנַי	דִּגְי	הַיָּם	וְעוֹף	
shall shake	at my presence	So that the fishes	of the sea	and the fowls	
H7493	H6440	H1709	H3220	H5775	
הַשָּׁמַיִם	וְחַיֵּי הַ	הַשָּׂדֶה	וְכָל	הַרֶמֶשׂ	הָרֶמֶשׂ
of the heaven	and the beasts	of the field	H3605	and all creeping things	that creep
H8064	H2416	H7704		H7431	H7430
עַל	הָאָדָמָה	וְכָל	הָאָדָם	אֲשֶׁר	עַל
H5921	of the earth	H3605	and all the men	H834	H5921
	H127		H120		at my presence
					H6440
הָאָדָמָה	וְנִהְרָסוּ	וְהָרִים	תִּפְּלוּ:	וְהַמִּדְבָּר	וְהַמִּדְבָּר
of the earth	shall be thrown down	and the mountains	shall fall	and the steep places	and the steep places
H127	H2040	H2022	H5307	H4095	
וְכָל	חוֹמָה	לָאָרֶץ	תִּפְּלוּ:		
H3605	and every wall	to the ground	shall fall		
	H2346	H776	H5307		

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Hosea 4:3** (Parallel theme): Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.