

# Ezekiel 39:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

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

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

## 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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עַל H5921	הַר י H2022	יִשְׂרָאֵל H3478	תִּפּוֹל H5307	אֹתָהּ H859	וְכָל H3605
upon the mountains		of Israel	Thou shalt fall		
אַתָּה וְכָל H102	אֲגָפְךָ H102	וְעַמּוֹ H5971	אֶשְׁרָךְ H834	אֹתָךְ H854	לְעֵיט H5861
thou and all thy bands		and the people			thee unto the ravenous
צִפּוֹרִים H6833	כָּל H3605	כָּל H3671	וְחַיֵּית H2416	הַשָּׂדֶה H7704	
birds		of every sort	and to the beasts	of the field	
נָתַתִּי H5414	אִתְּךָ H5414	לֵאכָלָהּ H402			
that is with thee I will give		to be devoured			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 33:27** (Parallel theme): Say thou thus unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; As I live, surely they that are in the wastes shall fall by the sword, and him that is in the open field will I give to the beasts to be devoured, and they that be in the forts and in the caves shall die of the pestilence.

**Ezekiel 38:21** (Parallel theme): And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

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