

# Isaiah 10:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

## Analysis

The judgment is inescapable: they will either bow among prisoners or fall among the slain. 'Bow down under the prisoners' suggests capture and enslavement. 'Fall under the slain' indicates death in battle. These are the only two options—survival means humiliation and slavery; resistance means death. The fifth repetition of the refrain emphasizes God's persistent anger and extended hand. Despite comprehensive judgment warnings, impenitence continues, necessitating the foretold destruction.

## Historical Context

Literally fulfilled: when Samaria fell (722 BC), survivors were deported as prisoners to Assyria (2 Kings 17:6), while many died in battle or siege. Similarly, when Judah was judged (586 BC), survivors went to Babylon as captives while multitudes died in Jerusalem's destruction. The choice between captivity or death characterized Assyrian and Babylonian conquest policies—submission meant slavery, resistance meant death.

## Related Passages

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the binary choice (captivity or death) illustrate the seriousness of divine judgment?
2. What does the repeated refrain teach about God's patience and justice working together?
3. How can we ensure we respond to God's warnings before judgment becomes inevitable?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּלֹת	י	בָּקַע	תִּמְתַּח	תִּמְתַּח	אֶת	יר	וְ	מִתְמַת
Without me	they shall	bow down		H8478	under the	prisoners		H8478
H1115		H3766			H616			
בָּרָאָג יִם	וְ	לֹא	יְפַלֵּל	בְּכָל	לֹא	זָאת	שׁ	בָּ
under the slain	and they shall fall		H5307	H3605	H2063	H3808	is not turned away	
H2026				H3605	H2063	H3808		H7725
אָג	וְ	תִּעַל	וְ	תִּעַל	וְ	נִטְפָּה:		
For all this his anger		H5750	but his hand	H3027	is stretched out still			
H639				H3027		H5186		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 5:25** (Parallel theme): Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcases were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

**Isaiah 9:12** (Parallel theme): The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

**Jeremiah 37:10** (Parallel theme): For though ye had smitten the whole army of the Chaldeans that fight against you, and there remained but wounded men among them, yet should they rise up every man in his tent, and burn this city with fire.

**Deuteronomy 32:30** (Parallel theme): How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?

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