

# 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

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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

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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

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**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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בְּלֹתִי י	כָּבַע	תַּחַת	אֶסְרִי	תַּחַת
Without me they shall	bow down	H8478	under the prisoners	H8478
H1115	H3766		H616	
הָרוּגִים	יָפֹּלֻּ	בְּכָל	זֹאת	לֹא
under the slain	and they shall fall	H3605	H2063	H3808
H2026	H5307			is not turned away
				H7725
אֵפֶי	יַעֲוֶה	יָדֹו	נִטְוֶה:	
For all this his anger	H5750	but his hand	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 carcasses 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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