

# Isaiah 13:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:

## Analysis

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The immediate physical effects of terror: 'all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt.' This describes total demoralization before overwhelming judgment. Faint hands cannot wield weapons; melted hearts cannot maintain courage. The Hebrew word for 'melt' (masas) suggests wax liquefying—complete dissolution of strength and will. This is not merely military defeat but psychological and spiritual collapse. When God's judgment falls, human bravado evaporates; earthly confidence dissolves. No courage, strategy, or strength avails against the Almighty.

## Historical Context

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Ancient warfare depended heavily on morale. An army with melted hearts—demoralized, despairing—would break and flee even before battle. When Babylon fell to Cyrus in 539 BC, it happened with minimal fighting. Daniel 5 records Belshazzar's feast the night Babylon fell—drinking, reveling, then sudden terror at the handwriting on the wall. The city's supposedly impregnable walls and gates meant nothing when God decreed judgment. Demoralization preceded and enabled military defeat.

## 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. What 'hands' or 'heart' are you depending on that will prove faint when tested against God's purposes?
2. How does knowing that human strength ultimately fails before God affect where we place our confidence?

## Interlinear Text

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עַל	יָד	כָּל	יָד יָם	תִּרְפָּ יָנָה	וְכָל	לֵב ב
H5921	H3651	H3605	Therefore shall all hands	be faint	H3605	heart
			H3027	H7503		H3824
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וְכָל	אֶן וְשׁ	יִמָּס:				
and every man's		shall melt				
H582		H4549				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 21:7** (Parallel theme): And it shall be, when they say unto thee, Wherefore sighest thou? that thou shalt answer, For the tidings; because it cometh: and every heart shall melt, and all hands shall be feeble, and every spirit shall faint, and all knees shall be weak as water: behold, it cometh, and shall be brought to pass, saith the Lord GOD.

**Isaiah 19:1** (Parallel theme): The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.

**Nahum 2:10** (Parallel theme): She is empty, and void, and waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain is in all loins, and the faces of them all gather blackness.

**Nahum 1:6** (Parallel theme): Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

**Ezekiel 7:17** (Parallel theme): All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water.

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