

# Isaiah 14:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Howl, O gate; cry, O city; thou, whole Palestina, art dissolved: for there shall come from the north a smoke, and none shall be alone in his appointed times.

## Analysis

'Howl, O gate; cry, O city; thou, whole Palestina, art dissolved: for there shall come from the north a smoke, and none shall be alone in his appointed times.' The command to howl and cry signals coming disaster. 'Dissolved' (mug) means melted, fainting, losing courage—total demoralization. The threat comes 'from the north'—typical invasion route and standard prophetic language for enemy approach. 'Smoke' may indicate fires from invading army or metaphorically represent destruction. The phrase 'none shall be alone in his appointed times' likely means the invader's ranks remain intact—no stragglers, no gaps—suggesting disciplined, overwhelming force. Philistia faces unified, powerful invasion, with no hope of resistance or escape.

## Historical Context

Invasions from the north (Mesopotamian empires) repeatedly devastated the Levant. Philistia, located on the coastal plain, was vulnerable to such invasions. Assyrian and later Babylonian campaigns swept through, destroying cities. The 'smoke' is literal—ancient warfare involved burning cities and fields. The unified, disciplined enemy suggests Assyrian or Babylonian military efficiency. Philistia's city-states did indeed fall to successive empires, eventually losing distinct identity. The warning was validated historically: rejoicing at one enemy's fall is foolish if greater enemies approach.

## Related Passages

---

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

---

1. How does the image of 'smoke from the north' serve as warning that judgment, once decreed, approaches inexorably?
2. What does Philistia's dissolution despite their rejoicing (v.29) teach about the danger of premature celebration?

## Interlinear Text

---

כֹּל	בְּ	פָּלֶשֶׁת	כָּל	בְּ	כָּל	בְּ
Howl	O gate	cry	O city	art dissolved	thou whole Palestina	H3605
H3213	H8179	H2199	H5892	H4127	H6429	
כִּי	מִזְגָּל	נָשָׁה	בְּאָתָה	אֵין	בְּזַדְתָּךְ	
H3588	from the north	a smoke	for there shall come	H369	and none shall be alone	H909
	H6828	H6227	H935			
בָּמוּעָדִים						
in his appointed times						
	H4151					

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Isaiah 20:1** (Parallel theme): In the year that Tartan came unto Ashdod, (when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him,) and fought against Ashdod, and took it;

**Jeremiah 1:14** (Parallel theme): Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land.

**Isaiah 14:29** (Parallel theme): Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent.

**Isaiah 13:6** (Parallel theme): Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)