

# Isaiah 21:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.

## Analysis

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'And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.' The watched-for event arrives: chariot announcing Babylon's fall. The doubled declaration 'fallen, is fallen' emphasizes certainty and completeness (echoed in Revelation 14:8; 18:2 regarding eschatological Babylon). Significantly, the fall includes destruction of idols—all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.' This demonstrates that Babylon's fall vindicates Yahweh over pagan gods. The battle isn't merely geopolitical but theological—Israel's God defeats Babylon's pantheon. Reformed theology emphasizes all history ultimately reveals God's glory and demonstrates false gods' impotence. Every earthly kingdom's fall is simultaneously political and spiritual, manifesting divine supremacy.

## Historical Context

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Cyrus's conquest (539 BCE) fulfilled this: Babylon fell, and while Cyrus claimed Marduk's support, biblical perspective sees it as Yahweh's victory. The idols' destruction refers both to literal damage during conquest and metaphorically to the gods' demonstrated powerlessness. If Babylon's gods were real and powerful, they would have prevented the conquest. Their failure to do so exposed them as

false. This theological interpretation of political events characterizes biblical historiography—seeing divine purposes behind historical developments. The doubled 'fallen, fallen' suggests complete, irreversible collapse. While Babylon as a city continued existing, its empire never recovered. This partial fulfillment points to complete eschatological fulfillment when all anti-God systems are finally, irrevocably destroyed (Revelation 18).

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

## Study Questions

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1. What does the doubled 'fallen, fallen' emphasize about judgment's certainty and completeness?
2. How does destruction of idols demonstrate theological dimensions of political events?
3. In what ways does historical Babylon's fall prefigure eschatological Babylon's final destruction?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהִנֵּה בָּאֵשׁ מִצְדָּחָר אֶלְמָד  
H2009 H2088 And behold here cometh a chariot of men with a couple  
H935 H7393 H376 H6776

פְּרַשׁ יְמִינֵי עַל נַפְלָה נַפְלָה בְּבָבִילוֹן  
of horsemen And he answered and said is fallen is fallen Babylon  
H6571 H6030 H559 H5307 H5307 H894 H3605

פָּסִילִים אֶלְמָד שָׁבַר לְאַצְזָן  
and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground  
H6456 H430 H7665 H776

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 18:2** (References Babylon): And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

**Revelation 14:8** (References Babylon): And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

**Jeremiah 51:8** (References Babylon): Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed.

**Jeremiah 51:44** (References Babylon): And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he hath swallowed up: and the nations shall not flow together any more unto him: yea, the wall of Babylon shall fall.

**Isaiah 13:19** (References God): And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

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