

# Isaiah 28:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, which as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth with the hand.

## Analysis

**Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, which as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth with the hand.** God's judgment against prideful Ephraim comes through a powerful agent. **The Lord hath a mighty and strong one** (chazaq ve'amits la-Adonai, צָהָק וְאָמִתָּה לְאֱדוֹנָה, literally "a strong and mighty one belonging to the Lord") refers to Assyria, God's instrument of judgment (Isaiah 10:5 calls Assyria "the rod of mine anger"). Though Assyria doesn't know it, they serve God's purposes.

Three metaphors depict unstoppable devastation: **tempest of hail** (zerem barad, זֶרֶם בָּרָד)—destructive storm; **destroying storm** (sa'ar qetev, שָׁעֵר קְטוּב—whirlwind of ruin; **flood of mighty waters overflowing** (zerem mayim kabbirim shofim, זֶרֶם מַיִם כָּבָרִים שׁוֹפִים)—overwhelming deluge. The triple imagery emphasizes total, irresistible destruction. **Shall cast down to the earth with the hand** (hiniach la'arets beyad, הַנִּיחַ לְאָרֶץ בְּיַד) means forcibly thrown down—violent conquest leaving the proud city prostrate in the dust.

## Historical Context

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In 722 BC, Assyrian king Shalmaneser V besieged Samaria; his successor Sargon II completed the conquest. Assyrian annals boast of deporting 27,290 Israelites and destroying cities. The Northern Kingdom ceased to exist, never restored. This fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy of overwhelming judgment. For Judah watching their sister kingdom fall, this warned of similar fate if they persisted in sin (which came via Babylon in 586 BC). God uses even pagan empires as instruments of His sovereign purposes (Habakkuk 1:5-11), though He later judges them for exceeding His mandate (Isaiah 10:12-19).

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing that God sovereignly uses even hostile powers for His purposes affect your view of current events?
2. What does Assyria's role as God's 'mighty and strong one' teach about divine judgment sometimes coming through natural consequences of sin?
3. How should the suddenness and totality of Samaria's fall warn against presuming on God's patience?

## Interlinear Text

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הָיָה כִּי־אַמְּצָעַ לְאַדְנֵי בְּנֵי־הַרְמָה  
H2009      hath a mighty      and strong one      Behold the Lord      as a flood      of hail  
H2389      H533      H136      H2230      H1259

שְׁעָרָם כְּבָרֵךְ שְׁעָרָם שְׁעָרָם  
storm and a destroying as a flood waters of mighty overflowing  
H8178      H6986      H2230      H4325      H3524      H7857

בְּיַדְךָ יְמִינְךָ לֹא־כֵן  
shall cast down to the earth with the hand  
H3240      H776      H3027

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 30:30** (References Lord): And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lightning down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.

**Nahum 1:8** (Parallel theme): But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.

**Ezekiel 13:11** (Parallel theme): Say unto them which daub it with untempered morter, that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it.

**Isaiah 29:6** (References Lord): Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.

**Isaiah 27:1** (References Lord): In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.