

# Isaiah 30:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant.

## Analysis

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**This iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall**—The Hebrew *perets* (פֶּרֶץ/breach) describes structural failure, a bulging crack in a defensive wall. The participle **swelling out** (בָּצַע/batze'a) depicts a wall bowing outward under pressure, moments from catastrophic collapse. Isaiah's architectural metaphor is devastating: the very sin they trusted for security becomes their ruin.

**Whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant** (פִּתְאוֹ/pit'om)—after prolonged structural stress, collapse is instantaneous. This imagery prophesies both historical judgment (Babylonian conquest, 586 BC) and eschatological suddenness (1 Thessalonians 5:3, "sudden destruction"). Sin's consequences often appear stable until catastrophic failure.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern cities depended on massive mud-brick or stone walls for defense. A bulging wall was a terrifying sight—engineers would recognize imminent collapse. Isaiah uses this common fear to illustrate spiritual danger. Within a century, Jerusalem's actual walls would be breached by Babylon (2 Kings 25:4), vindicating his prophecy.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What 'bulging walls' of compromise in your life appear stable but are structurally compromised?
2. How does God's patience before judgment create false security rather than opportunity for repentance?
3. What 'instant' collapses have you witnessed when long-tolerated sin finally brought consequences?

## Interlinear Text

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לְכֹל הַ	יְהוָה לְכֹל הַ	לְכֹל הַ	הָעוֹלָם	הַ	הַ	כִּפּוּר רִצְ
H3651	H1961	H0	Therefore this iniquity	H2088		shall be to you as a breach
			H5771			H6556
נֶפֶל לְ	נִבְעָה הַ	בְּחוֹמָה הַ	נִשְׁגָּבָה הַ	אֲשֶׁר	פְּתָא מְ	לִפְתָּע
ready to fall	swelling out	wall	in a high	H834	suddenly	at an instant
H5307	H1158	H2346	H7682		H6597	H6621
יָבֹא	שִׁבְרָהּ:					
cometh	whose breaking					
H935	H7667					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 29:5** (Parallel theme): Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away: yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly.

**Psalms 62:3** (Parallel theme): How long will ye imagine mischief against a man? ye shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence.

**Proverbs 29:1** (Parallel theme): He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

**1 Kings 20:30** (Parallel theme): But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left. And Ben-hadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner chamber.

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