

# Isaiah 54:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

## Analysis

**Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.** This verse acknowledges that enemies will still gather against God's people, but crucially qualifies: "not by me" (לֹא מֵעִצָּמֵי, לֹא מֵעִצָּמָת). God doesn't send these enemies; they act independently, even against His purposes. Yet the outcome is certain: "shall fall for thy sake" (יִפְלֹל עָלָיו, יִפְלֹל עָלָיו)—they collapse because of you, or on account of you.

The word "surely" (hen yigur gar, חֲנַנְיָה גָּר, literally "if gathering they gather") uses emphatic construction acknowledging opposition's certainty. God doesn't promise absence of conflict but victory in conflict. The enemies' gathering "not by me" distinguishes this from God's use of Babylon as judgment instrument (earlier in Isaiah). Future enemies attack without divine sanction, ensuring their defeat.

From a Reformed perspective, this addresses the problem of evil and spiritual warfare. Satan and enemies oppose God's people, but not with divine authorization. God permits testing but guarantees victory (Romans 8:37, 1 Corinthians 15:57). The fall of gathered enemies demonstrates divine providence overruling evil purposes for His people's good (Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:28). This verse teaches that opposition to God's elect ultimately serves their vindication, not destruction.

## Historical Context

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Post-exilic Israel faced opposition from Samaritans, surrounding nations, and later from Seleucids and Romans. Nehemiah 4 records enemies gathering to stop wall construction; they failed. Haman gathered resources to destroy Jews; he fell instead (Esther 7). The pattern repeats: enemies gather, God defeats them.

Church history demonstrates this principle: Rome gathered against Christians, Rome fell; medieval persecutors gathered against reformers, the Reformation succeeded; Nazi Germany gathered to exterminate Jews, Germany was defeated. Current global opposition to Christianity will likewise fail. Revelation 20:7-9 describes final gathering of nations against the church, ending in their destruction. The promise remains: those who gather against God's people without His sanction will fall.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does knowing that enemies gather 'not by God' affect your response to opposition?
2. What gatherings against the church or against you personally need this promise of their eventual fall?
3. How can believers maintain confidence of victory while experiencing present hostility?

## Interlinear Text

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Behold they shall surely

H854

against thee shall fall

H4310

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H5307

## Additional Cross-References

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**Zechariah 2:8** (Parallel theme): For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.

**Zechariah 12:9** (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

**Isaiah 43:14** (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships.

**Zechariah 12:3** (Parallel theme): And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

**Revelation 16:14** (Parallel theme): For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.