

# Isaiah 9:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the LORD shall set up the adversaries of Rezin against him, and join his enemies together;

## Analysis

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God responds to pride by intensifying judgment. 'Therefore' indicates consequence—pride brings escalation. 'Set up the adversaries of Rezin against him' refers to Assyria defeating Syria, then turning on Israel who had allied with Syria. 'Join his enemies together' suggests coalitions forming against Israel. God sovereignly orchestrates historical events to accomplish His purposes, even using pagan nations as judgment instruments. This demonstrates the Reformed doctrine of providence—God governs all events, including enemy actions, to fulfill His purposes.

## Historical Context

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Rezin of Syria allied with Pekah of Israel against Assyria (735-732 BC). God raised up Assyria to defeat Syria first (732 BC), then turn on Israel. The 'adversaries' included not only Assyria but also various peoples Assyria mobilized. By 722 BC, Samaria fell. God's sovereign control over international politics accomplished His declared purposes with precision. The nations were pawns in God's hands, unknowingly executing His judgments.

## Related Passages

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does God sovereignly use even hostile nations and individuals to accomplish His purposes?
2. What does divine providence teach about God's complete control over historical events?
3. How should recognition of God's sovereignty over nations affect our view of current events?

## Interlinear Text

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|              |                      |        |                 |          |       |        |
|--------------|----------------------|--------|-----------------|----------|-------|--------|
| בְּיַשְׁגַּב | הִיהְתָּה            | אַתָּה | אֶצְבָּעַ       | אַתָּה   | עַל   | אַתָּה |
| shall set up | Therefore the LORD   | H853   | the adversaries | of Rezin | H5921 | H853   |
| H7682        | H3068                |        | H6862           | H7526    |       |        |
| אִתְּבָעַ    | וְיַסְכְּבָה         |        |                 |          |       |        |
| his enemies  | against him and join | H341   | H5526           |          |       |        |

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