

# Isaiah 9:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

## Analysis

The judgment comes from all directions: 'Syrians before' (east) and 'Philistines behind' (west), indicating comprehensive encirclement. 'They shall devour Israel with open mouth' depicts ravenous enemies consuming the nation. The phrase 'For all this' introduces a refrain (repeated in verses 13, 17, 21, 10:4) emphasizing persistent rebellion. 'His anger is not turned away' indicates God's wrath continues unabated. 'His hand is stretched out still' portrays ongoing, active judgment. Despite escalating discipline, the people remain impenitent, necessitating further judgment.

## Historical Context

Fulfilled as Israel faced simultaneous threats from multiple enemies. Syria attacked from the northeast, Philistines raided from the southwest, and ultimately Assyria invaded from the north. Historical records confirm Israel suffered these multi-front attacks during its final decades (750-722 BC). The repeated refrain emphasizes God's patience in sending progressive judgments, hoping for repentance, yet ultimately bringing complete destruction when impenitence persisted.

## Related Passages

## **Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith**

## James 2:17 — Faith and works

## Study Questions

1. How does God's 'stretched out hand' represent both His judgment and His appeal for repentance?
2. What does persistent impenitence despite escalating judgment reveal about the human heart?
3. How can we recognize when God is disciplining us and respond appropriately before judgment intensifies?

## Interlinear Text

אֲבָנִים	מִקְדָּם	וּפְלִשְׁתִּים	וְמֵאֲחָת	וְאֶכְלָל	אֶת
<b>The Syrians</b>	<b>before</b>	<b>and the Philistines</b>	<b>behind</b>	<b>and they shall devour</b>	H853

לֹא	זָאת	בְּכָל	פְּה	בְּכָל	יִשְׁבָּא	לְ
Israel	H3605	with open mouth	H3605	H2063	H3808	is not turned away

אֵגֶת יְהִי יְמִינְךָ  
For all this his anger H5750 but his hand H3027 is stretched out still H5186

## Additional Cross-References

**Isaiah 5:25** (Parallel theme): Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcases were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

**2 Chronicles 28:18** (Parallel theme): The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the low country, and of the south of Judah, and had taken Beth-shemesh, and Ajalon, and Gederoth, and Shocho with the villages thereof, and Timnah with the villages thereof, Gimzo also and the villages thereof: and they dwelt there.

**Psalms 79:7** (Parallel theme): For they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his dwelling place.

**2 Kings 16:6** (Parallel theme): At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drove the Jews from Elath: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day.

**Isaiah 9:17** (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

**Isaiah 9:21** (Parallel theme): Manasseh, Ephraim; and Ephraim, Manasseh: and they together shall be against Judah. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

**Isaiah 10:4** (Parallel theme): Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

**Jeremiah 10:25** (Parallel theme): Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name: for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate.