

# Jeremiah 25:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands.

## Analysis

**For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands.** This verse predicts Babylon's eventual subjugation—the empire that enslaved others would itself be enslaved. The phrase ‘āḇēdû ḥām (עֲבָדוּ חָם, shall serve themselves of them) employs the same verb used for Judah serving Babylon, emphasizing poetic justice. The oppressor becomes the oppressed. The principle gāmal (גָּמַל, recompense/repay) appears throughout Scripture: 'whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap' (Galatians 6:7).

The phrase kēmip‘ālām ûkēma‘āsê yēdêhem (כִּמְיַפְּאֵלָם וְכַמְאֲסֵהֶם, according to their deeds and according to the works of their hands) emphasizes proportional justice—God's judgment corresponds precisely to the sin committed. This isn't arbitrary wrath but measured response to specific evil. The Medo-Persian Empire would conquer Babylon (539 BC), followed by Greece and Rome. The mighty empire that seemed invincible would be reduced to perpetual ruins, demonstrating no human power stands permanently apart from God's sovereign will.

## Historical Context

Babylon's fall to Cyrus the Persian (539 BC) fulfilled this prophecy within Jeremiah's predicted timeframe. The Medes and Persians ('many nations and great kings') conquered the empire. Later, Alexander the Great's Greek armies and

## Related Passages

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

1. How does the principle that oppressors eventually face oppression demonstrate God's justice in history?
2. What does 'recompense according to their deeds' teach about the precision and fairness of divine judgment?
3. How should the certainty that God judges powerful nations and empires shape Christian engagement with political power and national pride?

## Interlinear Text

כַּפְּעֵל ׀
וּכְמַעַשׂ ה
יְדֵיהֶם׃  
 them according to their deeds
 and according to the works
 of their own hands  
 H6467
 H4639
 H3027

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Jeremiah 51:6** (Parallel theme): Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence.

**Jeremiah 50:9** (Parallel theme): For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows shall be as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain.

**Jeremiah 27:7** (Kingdom): And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.

**Jeremiah 50:41** (Kingdom): Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)