

# Jeremiah 38:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, all the women that are left in the king of Judah's house shall be brought forth to the king of Babylon's princes, and those women shall say, Thy friends have set thee on, and have prevailed against thee: thy feet are sunk in the mire, and they are turned away back.

## Analysis

**All the women that are left in the king of Judah's house**—These royal women (likely concubines and court ladies) would survive the conquest only to become spoils of war, led to Babylonian princes. Their prophesied taunt song demonstrates the complete reversal of Zedekiah's fortunes: even his own household would mock his foolish choices.

**Thy friends have set thee on, and have prevailed against thee**—The Hebrew sut (סְעַד, "to incite/instigate") and yakol (יָכַל, "to prevail/overcome") indict Zedekiah's advisors (particularly the anti-surrender princes). **Thy feet are sunk in the mire** (batsa, בַּתְּסָעָה)—Bitter irony! The same word describes the muddy cistern where these officials had left Jeremiah to die (38:6). Now Zedekiah himself would be hopelessly stuck, betrayed by the very counselors he trusted over God's prophet. They promised deliverance but delivered disaster.

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern victory songs commonly included taunts celebrating the defeated king's bad decisions. That Zedekiah's own women would sing such a song magnified the shame. The imagery of feet stuck in mud may reference military

disaster—troops bogged down in impossible terrain, a metaphor for Zedekiah's politically impossible position created by bad advice.

## Related Passages

---

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

---

1. How does the "mire" imagery connect Zedekiah's treatment of Jeremiah to his own eventual fate?
2. What warning does this verse give about choosing advisors who tell us what we want to hear rather than God's truth?
3. How might heeding Jeremiah have spared Zedekiah this prophesied humiliation?

## Interlinear Text

בְּ יִתְּהַלֵּךְ כָּל יְהוָה הַנֶּשֶׁר יְמִינְךָ	And behold all the women	that are left	house
H2009 H3605 H802		H834 H7604	H1004
מִלְּגָדָה מִלְּגָדָה יְהוָדָה מִלְּגָדָה	shall be brought forth	princes	in the king
H4428 H3063 H3318 H413		H8269	H4428
בְּבָבָלָן וְבְבָבָלָן וְבְבָבָלָן וְבְבָבָלָן	and those women shall say	have set thee on	the mire
H894 H2007 H559 H5496			
וְיִכְלֶל וְיִכְלֶל וְיִכְלֶל וְיִכְלֶל וְיִכְלֶל	are sunk	in the mire	
H3201 H0 H376 H7965 H2883 H1206			
בְּגַנְלָבָן בְּגַנְלָבָן בְּגַנְלָבָן בְּגַנְלָבָן	and they are turned away	back	
H7272 H5472 H268			

## Additional Cross-References

**Jeremiah 43:6** (Kingdom): Even men, and women, and children, and the king's daughters, and every person that Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch the son of Neriah.

**Lamentations 5:11** (Parallel theme): They ravished the women in Zion, and the maids in the cities of Judah.

**Lamentations 1:2** (Parallel theme): She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies.