

# 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

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**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* (סוט, "to incite/instigate") and *yakol* (יכול, "to prevail/overcome") indict Zedekiah's advisors (particularly the anti-surrender princes). **Thy feet are sunk in the mire** (batsa, בָּצָה)—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

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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**

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

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

## **Study Questions**

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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

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כָּל	וְהֵנּי הֵ	הַנָּשִׁים יִם	אֲשֶׁר	נִשְׁאַרוּ	בֵּית יֵת
H2009	H3605	H802	H834	H7604	H1004
And behold all the women			that are left	house	
מֶלֶךְ	יְהוּדָה הֵ	מוֹצֵא וְתֵ	אֶל	שָׂרֵי י	מֶלֶךְ
H4428	H3063	H3318	H413	H8269	H4428
in the king	of Judah's	shall be brought forth	princes	in the king	
לְ	וְהֵנּי הֵ	אֲמַרְתִּי	הַסִּית וְכֵן		
H894	H2007	H559	H5496		
of Babylon's		and those women shall say	have set thee on		
וַיִּכְלֹ	לְ	אֲנִשׁ י	הַטְּבַע וְ	בִּבְ	י
H3201	H0	H376	H7965	H2883	H1206
and have prevailed			are sunk	in the mire	
בְּגִלְ	נָס גוֹ	אָחוֹר:			
H7272	H5472	H268			
against thee thy feet	and they are turned away	back			

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.