

# Jeremiah 39:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate, even Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim, Rab-saris, Nergal-sharezer, Rab-mag, with all the residue of the princes of the king of Babylon.

## Analysis

**All the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate** (שַׁעַר הַתּוֹרָה, sha'ar hatavekh)—The 'middle gate' (likely between the upper and lower city) became the seat of Babylonian judgment, symbolizing foreign dominion in the holy city. The act of 'sitting' (יָשַׁב, yashav) denotes taking authority—these conquerors held court where David's throne once reigned.

The naming of specific officials—**Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim, Rab-saris, Rab-mag**—demonstrates historical precision. 'Rab-saris' (רַב־סָרִיס, rab-saris) means 'chief eunuch'; 'Rab-mag' (רַב־מָגֵן, rab-mag) means 'chief magician.' These pagan titles sitting in Zion's gates fulfill the warning that covenant-breakers would be ruled by uncircumcised foreigners (Leviticus 26:17, Deuteronomy 28:43-44).

## Historical Context

Nergal-sharezer (Nergal-sar-usur) later became king of Babylon (560-556 BC), confirming the historical accuracy of this account. The Babylonian administrative system placed multiple officials over conquered territories. Archaeological evidence from Babylonian records confirms these administrative titles and the structure of Nebuchadnezzar's government.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean when ungodly authorities 'sit in the gates' of areas God intended for His people to govern?
2. How does seeing pagan officials ruling Jerusalem help you understand the consequences of spiritual compromise?
3. In what ways does Christ reverse this scene by triumphing over all principalities and powers (Colossians 2:15)?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּשַׁעַר	וַיֵּשֶׁב	וְ	בָבֶל:	מֶלֶךְ	שָׂרֵי	כָּל	וַיָּבֹאוּ
gate	and sat		of Babylon	of the king	And all the princes	came in	
H8179	H3427		H894	H4428	H8269	H3605	H935
סָרְסִיִּם	שָׂרֵי	וְ	נָבֻ	סַמְגַר	שַׁרְאָצַר	נִרְגַּל	הֵתָּוֶר
Sarsechim			Samgarnebo		Nergalsharezer	in the middle	
H8310	H0		H5562	H0	H5371	H8432	H0
שְׂאֵרֵי יֵת	וְכָל	מֶגֶ	רַב	שַׁרְאָצַר	נִרְגַּל	סָרְסִי	רַב
with all the residue		Rabmag		Nergalsharezer		Rabsaris	
H7611	H3605	H7248	H0	H5371	H0	H7249	H0
בָּבֶל:	מֶלֶךְ	שָׂרֵי					
of Babylon	of the king	And all the princes					
H894	H4428	H8269					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 21:4** (Kingdom): Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands, wherewith ye fight against the king of Babylon, and against the Chaldeans, which besiege you without the walls, and I will assemble them into the midst of this city.

**Jeremiah 38:17** (Kingdom): Then said Jeremiah unto Zedekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; If thou wilt assuredly go forth unto the king of Babylon's princes, then thy soul shall live, and this city shall not be burned with fire; and thou shalt live, and thine house:

**Jeremiah 1:15** (Kingdom): For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the LORD; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah.

**Jeremiah 39:13** (Kingdom): So Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard sent, and Nebushasban, Rab-saris, and Nergal-sharezer, Rab-mag, and all the king of Babylon's princes;