

# Jeremiah 46:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore have I seen them dismayed and turned away back?  
and their mighty ones are beaten down, and are fled apace,  
and look not back: for fear was round about, saith the LORD.

## Analysis

**Wherefore have I seen them dismayed** (מִדּוּעַ רָאִיתִי הֵמָּה חֲתִים)—The interrogative maddua expresses shocked surprise: 'Why do I see...?' The adjective hattim (חֲתִים) means 'terrified' or 'shattered.' After v. 3-4's confident preparation, the sudden reversal is stunning. **Turned away back** (נִסְגְּוּ אָחֹר) describes chaotic retreat—disciplined forces dissolving into panicked flight.

**Their mighty ones are beaten down** (גִּבּוֹרֵיהֶם, gibboreihem)—Egypt's elite warriors, the gibborim, flee without fighting. **Fear was round about, saith the LORD** (מִגֹּר מִסָּבִיב נֶאֱמַר יְהוָה)—The phrase magor missaviv ('terror on every side') is Jeremiah's signature expression (6:25, 20:3, 10), signifying God-sent panic that breaks military discipline.

## Historical Context

Ancient battle accounts rarely describe such comprehensive panic among elite forces. The Babylonian Chronicles confirm Egypt's catastrophic defeat at Carchemish, stating Nebuchadnezzar 'accomplished their overthrow and beat them until they ceased to exist.' Divine terror caused military collapse beyond natural battlefield dynamics.

## Related Passages

---

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

---

1. What causes elite warriors to flee without fighting when God sends supernatural fear?
2. How does 'terror on every side' demonstrate judgment extending beyond physical defeat to psychological collapse?
3. Why is God's declaration ('saith the LORD') crucial for understanding this as divine judgment, not mere military misfortune?

## Interlinear Text

---

מִדּוֹ וַעֲ	כִּי יִרְאֶה יְהוָה	הֵמָּה	חֲתִימִים	נָסְגָּ יִם	אָחֹרָה
H4069	Wherefore have I seen	H1992	them dismayed	and turned	away back
	H7200		H2844	H5472	H268
וְגִבּוֹרֵיהֶם	יִכָּתֹוּ	וּמִן אוֹסֵם	נָסוּ	וְלֹא	
and their mighty ones	are beaten down	apace	and are fled		H3808
H1368	H3807	H4498	H5127		
וְהָפֹנּוּ	מִגֹּרֹם	מִסָּבִיב	נֹאמַר	יְהוָה:	
and look not back	for fear	was round about	saith	the LORD	
H6437	H4032	H5439	H5002	H3068	

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Jeremiah 6:25** (Parallel theme): Go not forth into the field, nor walk by the way; for the sword of the enemy and fear is on every side.

**Jeremiah 49:29** (Parallel theme): Their tents and their flocks shall they take away: they shall take to themselves their curtains, and all their vessels, and their camels; and they shall cry unto them, Fear is on every side.

**Jeremiah 46:21** (Parallel theme): Also her hired men are in the midst of her like fatted bullocks; for they also are turned back, and are fled away together: they did not stand, because the day of their calamity was come upon them, and the time of their visitation.

---

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