

# Jeremiah 46:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let not the swift flee away, nor the mighty man escape; they shall stumble, and fall toward the north by the river Euphrates.

## Analysis

**Let not the swift flee away, nor the mighty man escape**—The negated jussives express divine decree: neither speed (qal, קַל) nor strength (gibbor, גִּבּוֹר) provides escape from God's judgment. This echoes Amos 2:14-15: 'Flight shall perish from the swift...neither shall the mighty deliver himself.' Human advantages become worthless under divine sentence.

**They shall stumble, and fall toward the north by the river Euphrates** (כָּשְׁלוּ וְנָפְלוּ צָפוֹנָה אֶל־נְהַר־פָּרָת)—The verbs kashlu (stumbled) and naflu (fell) describe complete military defeat at the battle site. Geographic precision ('toward the north...Euphrates') confirms historical fulfillment at Carchemish, transforming the river into Egypt's mass grave.

## Historical Context

The Euphrates River, site of Egypt's imperial ambitions, became their burial ground. Babylon pursued fleeing Egyptians relentlessly, slaughtering them along the retreat route. This decisive defeat ended Egypt's attempt to dominate Syria-Palestine and established Babylonian hegemony, directly affecting Judah's fate as a Babylonian vassal.

## 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. Why do natural advantages (speed, strength) provide no refuge from God's decreed judgments?
2. How does the specific location ('by the river Euphrates') emphasize that God controls history geographically and temporally?
3. What does Egypt's defeat teach about human imperial ambitions opposed to God's sovereign plan?

## Interlinear Text

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אַל H408	יָנוּס H5127	לֹא H7031	יִמָּלֵט H408	וְלֹא H4422	יִמָּלֵט H1368
flee away	Let not	the swift	escape	nor the	mighty man
צָפָה וְנָהָר H6828	עַל H5921	בְּ H3027	נְהָר H5104	פְּכָת H6578	כָּשָׁל וְנָפַל H3782
toward the north	by	the river	Euphrates	they shall stumble	and fall

## Additional Cross-References

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**Daniel 11:19** (Parallel theme): Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

**Jeremiah 46:12** (Parallel theme): The nations have heard of thy shame, and thy cry hath filled the land: for the mighty man hath stumbled against the mighty, and they are fallen both together.