

# Jeremiah 47:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of his strong horses, at the rushing of his chariots, and at the rumbling of his wheels, the fathers shall not look back to their children for feebleness of hands;

## Analysis

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**At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of his strong horses, at the rushing of his chariots, and at the rumbling of his wheels** (מִקְׁוֹל שָׁעַטָּת פְּרִסּוֹת) — The triple auditory assault creates overwhelming sensory terror: shaatah (stamping), raash (rushing/rattling), and hamon (rumbling/tumult). Abbirim (strong ones/stallions) emphasizes elite cavalry. The alliterative Hebrew intensifies the cacophony of invasion.

**The fathers shall not look back to their children for feebleness of hands** (לֹא-הָפְנוּ אֲבֹתָן אֶל-בָּנִים מִרְפִּיוֹן יָדִים) — The shocking image of fathers abandoning children reverses natural parental instinct. Rifyon yadayim (slackness/feebleness of hands) denotes paralyzing terror, the same phrase used of Joshua's enemies (Joshua 2:11, 5:1). Panic dissolves the most basic human bonds.

## Historical Context

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Babylonian military technology was superior, with heavy cavalry and sophisticated chariotry. The psychological impact of these forces terrified smaller nations. Archaeological evidence from Ashkelon shows destruction layers from this period, confirming the prophecy's fulfillment.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does the vivid sensory language (sound of hooves, wheels, chariots) make divine judgment tangible?
2. What does the image of fathers abandoning children reveal about the totality of judgment's terror?
3. How might "feebleness of hands" describe spiritual paralysis in the face of consequences we've long avoided?

## Interlinear Text

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מִבְּעֵשׂ אָבִיכֶיךָ וְלֹא  
At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of his strong horses at the rushing  
H6963 H8161 H6541 H47 H7494

לְרַכְבֵּךְ וְלְגַלְגָּלֵיךְ וְלֹא  
of his chariots and at the rumbling of his wheels shall not look back  
H7393 H1995 H1534 H3808 H6437

אֲבֹתָיךָ וְלֹא  
the fathers to their children for feebleness of hands  
H1 H413 H1121 H7510 H3027

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 8:16** (Parallel theme): The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein.

**Judges 5:22** (Parallel theme): Then were the horsehoofs broken by the means of the pransings, the pransings of their mighty ones.

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