

# Jeremiah 49:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Ben-hadad.

## Analysis

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**And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus** (וְהִצְתַּא אֵשׁ בְּחוֹמָת דָּמָשָׁק) — God personally ignites (yatsath, kindle/set ablaze) Damascus's fortifications. Fire is God's signature judgment weapon, purifying and consuming (Deuteronomy 4:24, Hebrews 12:29). The walls, representing military security and civic pride, will burn.

**And it shall consume the palaces of Ben-hadad** (וְאֶכֶּלֶת אֶרְחָנוֹת בֶּן-הָדָד) — The verb akal (consume/devour) suggests total destruction. Ben-hadad was the dynastic name/title of Damascus's kings (1 Kings 15:18, 20:1). Their citadels and royal estates will be fuel for God's fire. This formula parallels Amos 1:4, confirming the prophetic tradition of Syria's judgment. What human hands built, divine fire unmakes—a sobering reminder that all cultural achievements are subject to their Maker's appraisal.

## Historical Context

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The Ben-hadad dynasty ruled Damascus during the 9th-8th centuries BC. By Jeremiah's time, Syria was a Babylonian vassal. The 'palaces of Ben-hadad' became a stock phrase for Damascus's royal establishment, even after that dynasty ended — emphasizing the continuity of pride and consequent judgment.

## Related Passages

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

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. Why is fire the characteristic metaphor for divine judgment throughout Scripture?
2. What does God's personal agency ('I will kindle') teach about His active involvement in historical judgments?
3. How should the burning of 'palaces' inform Christian perspectives on wealth, power, and architectural monuments?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶרְאֵנָה וְתִּאְכַּל הַמִּלְחָמָה בְּחַוּמָת אֵשׁ וְהַצְּתִּיר  
And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus and it shall consume the palaces

H3341 H784 H2346 H1834 H398 H759

בְּנֵה דָמָס  
H0 of Benhadad  
H1130

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