

# Jeremiah 50:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria.

## Analysis

**Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel**—the covenant formula establishes divine authority. 'LORD of hosts' (Yahweh tseba'oth, יְהָוָה אֲצָבָאֹת) emphasizes God's command over all heavenly and earthly armies. Though speaking judgment on pagan Babylon, He identifies as 'God of Israel,' reminding that this judgment serves His covenant purposes for His people.

**Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria**—paqad (רָצַף, punish) means to visit in judgment, to reckon with. The comparison to Assyria is deliberate: Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom (722 BC) but was itself destroyed by Babylon (612 BC). Now Babylon, which destroyed Assyria, will herself be destroyed by Persia. This reveals a pattern in God's providence: He uses one wicked empire to judge another, then judges that empire in turn. None escape accountability. The sequence demonstrates God's sovereignty over history—He orchestrates the rise and fall of empires according to His eternal purposes. Romans 13:1 affirms governing authorities are established by God, but this doesn't grant them unlimited power or exemption from judgment.

## Historical Context

Assyria fell to Babylon in 612 BC when Nineveh was destroyed by a coalition of Babylonians and Medes. Nahum prophesied this judgment. Less than a century later (539 BC), Babylon fell to Persia. The parallels are striking: both empires were

arrogant, brutal, and seemed invincible. Both thought their gods had granted them permanent dominion. Both were shocked by sudden collapse. The pattern continues throughout history—Persian, Greek, Roman, and subsequent empires all rise and fall according to God's sovereign timeline.

## Related Passages

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

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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does the pattern of empires judging each other, then being judged in turn, demonstrate God's sovereignty over human history?
2. What does the comparison to Assyria teach about the inevitability of judgment on oppressive powers, regardless of their apparent strength?
3. How should this verse shape Christian attitudes toward contemporary political powers—neither idolizing them nor assuming they're permanent?

## Interlinear Text

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ישָׁרָא לְ אֱלֹהִים צָבָאֹת יְהוָה אֱמֹרֶת כִּי לְכֶם  
H3651 H3541 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts  
H559 H3068 H6635 H430 H3478

אֶרְצֵךְ וְאֶל בְּבָבִלּוֹן תִּנְגַּבְתִּי  
H2005 Behold I will punish the king of Babylon  
H6485 H413 H4428 H894 H413 H776

אֶשְׁוֹרָה וְאֶל בְּבָבִלּוֹן תִּנְגַּבְתִּי  
H834 Behold I will punish the king of Assyria  
H6485 H413 H4428 H804

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 10:12** (Kingdom): Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks.

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