

# Jeremiah 50:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him.

## Analysis

**And the most proud shall stumble and fall**—zdon (זֹדֶן, the pride, arrogance) personified will kashal (קָשָׁל, stumble, totter) and naphal (נָפַל, fall, collapse). Pride goes before destruction (Proverbs 16:18). **And none shall raise him up**—no ally, no god, no power can restore what God casts down. Babylon had numerous vassal nations and alleged divine patrons, yet none could prevent or reverse its fall.

**And I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him**—fire symbolizes complete, purifying judgment. The Hebrew ba'ar (בָּאָר, kindle, burn) and akal (אָכֵל, devour, consume) suggest unstoppable destruction spreading from Babylon proper to surrounding regions. This echoes Amos's judgment oracles where fire consumes palaces (Amos 1:4, 7, 10, 12, 14). The fire represents both literal destruction and God's consuming wrath.

## Historical Context

Though Cyrus's conquest was relatively peaceful, subsequent fires did consume Babylon. Xerxes I burned Babylon after revolts in 484 BC. Alexander the Great found the city partially ruined by 331 BC. The Parthians and Sassanians ruled over a steadily declining Babylon. Medieval travelers found only ruins. The 'fire' of judgment consumed Babylon progressively but completely. Today, the site lies desolate in Iraq, with Saddam Hussein's attempted reconstruction in the 1980s-90s never succeeding. The proud city has no 'raiser' to restore it.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the certainty that 'none shall raise him up' demonstrate the finality of God's judgments?
2. What does the spreading fire 'round about him' teach about how sin and its consequences affect surrounding areas and peoples?
3. What hope does this verse offer to those oppressed by the proud, and what warning to the arrogant?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	יָאִרְתָּ	יְתַפֵּל	לְזִדְעָן	וְכֹשֵׁל	לֹא	יָאִרְתָּ	יְתַפֵּל	לְזִדְעָן	וְכֹשֵׁל	
shall	stumble	And	the	most	proud	and	fall	H369	H0	
H3782		H2087			H5307					
מִלְאָקָה	יְמִינָה	וְיִהְצְצָה	רִאֵת	אֵשׁ	בָּעֵד	יְהִי	וְאָכַל	הָ		
and	none	shall	raise	him	up	and	I	will	kindle	
H6965			H3341			a	fire	in	his	cities
						H784		H5892		H398
כָּל	סְבִיבָתָיו									
H3605	all	round	about							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 49:27** (Parallel theme): And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Ben-hadad.

**Jeremiah 21:14** (Parallel theme): But I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings, saith the LORD: and I will kindle a fire in the forest thereof, and it shall devour all things round about it.

**Revelation 18:8** (Parallel theme): Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

**Amos 2:5** (Parallel theme): But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.

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