

# Jeremiah 50:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A sword is upon the Chaldeans, saith the LORD, and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise men.

## Analysis

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**A sword is upon the Chaldeans, saith the LORD** (חֶרֶב עַל-כַּשְׁדִּים, cherev al-Kasdim)—The fivefold anaphora 'a sword upon' creates relentless drumbeat of judgment. Babylon, who wielded God's sword against nations (27:6-8), now faces that same weapon turned against them. The cherev (sword) represents both military conquest and divine judgment. **Upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise men**—comprehensive targeting: general population, political rulers, and intellectual elite. Babylon's famed wisdom tradition (Daniel 1:20, 2:2) cannot avert this sword.

## Historical Context

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Babylon's fall to the Medo-Persian coalition (539 BC) was both military conquest and divine judgment. Cyrus's forces diverted the Euphrates and entered through Babylon's river gates. The 'sword' was literal (though Babylon fell with minimal bloodshed) and symbolic (God's judicial sentence executed through Persia).

## Related Passages

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

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Why does God use the same 'sword' metaphor for both executing judgment and receiving judgment?
2. What does the targeting of Babylon's 'wise men' teach about the limitations of human wisdom apart from God?
3. How does the repetitive 'sword upon' formula emphasize the comprehensive and inescapable nature of divine judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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עַל הָרֶב	כַּשְׂדִּים יִם	וְאֵל יְהוָה הָאֵם	
<b>A sword</b> H2719	<b>is upon the Chaldeans</b> H3778	<b>saith</b> H5002	<b>the LORD</b> H3068
וְעַל יְשֻׁבֵי י	בָּבֶל ל	וְעַל	שְׂרָיָהּ וְעַל
<b>and upon the inhabitants</b> H3427	<b>of Babylon</b> H894	<b>H413</b>	<b>and upon her princes</b> H8269
וְעַל חֲכָמֶיהָ:			
<b>and upon her wise</b> H2450			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 47:6** (Word): O thou sword of the LORD, how long will it be ere thou be quiet? put up thyself into thy scabbard, rest, and be still.

**Jeremiah 51:57** (References Lord): And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise men, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men: and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

**Hosea 11:6** (Word): And the sword shall abide on his cities, and shall consume his branches, and devour them, because of their own counsels.

**Daniel 5:30** (Parallel theme): In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

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