

# Jeremiah 50:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

## Analysis

**Behold, a people shall come from the north** (הִנֵּה עַם בָּא מִצָּפוֹן, hinneh am ba mittsafon)—The 'foe from the north' motif used for Babylon attacking Jerusalem (1:14-15, 4:6, 6:1) is now inverted: a northern coalition attacks Babylon. **And a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth** (וְגוֹי גָדוֹל וְרַבִּים יִעָרְוּ מִדְּבַרְתֵּי-אָרֶץ, v'goy gadol um'lakhim rabbim ye'oru miyarketei-arets)—The Medo-Persian empire under Cyrus indeed represented a coalition: Medes, Persians, and subject peoples from earth's 'coasts' (remote regions).

The verb *ur* (to rouse, awaken) indicates God's agency—He stirs up Babylon's conquerors. This echoes Isaiah 13:17 ('I will stir up the Medes against them'). History's actors think they move autonomously; Scripture reveals God's hand orchestrating their steps. Cyrus didn't know he fulfilled prophecy (Isaiah 45:4), yet God directed every decision. This truth should comfort God's people: our enemies are on His leash.

## Historical Context

Cyrus the Persian formed alliance with Medes (Astyages's kingdom) and conquered Lydia (546 BC), creating the vast Persian Empire. His coalition included diverse peoples: Elamites, Babylonians (rebels), Greeks (Ionian mercenaries). This multinational force fulfilled the 'many kings' prophecy against Babylon.

## Related Passages

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

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

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does the reversal of the 'foe from the north' demonstrate God's poetic justice in judgment?
2. What does God 'raising up' pagan kings reveal about His sovereignty over international politics?
3. How should Christians respond when God uses ungodly powers to discipline other ungodly powers?

## Interlinear Text

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הִנֵּה ה	עַם	בָּא	מִצֶּפֶן וּן	וְגוֹי	גָּדוֹל
H2009	Behold a people	shall come	from the north	nation	and a great
	H5971	H935	H6828	H1471	H1419
וּמְלָכֵי יָם	רַבִּי יָם	יִעָרֵוּ	מִמִּצְרַיִם	אֶרֶץ:	
kings	and many	shall be raised up	from the coasts	of the earth	
H4428	H7227	H5782	H3411	H776	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 50:9** (Resurrection): For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows shall be as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain.

