

# Jeremiah 51:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillers.

## Analysis

**Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillers**—God summons a multinational coalition to execute judgment on Babylon. The "standard" (nes, נֶס) was a military rallying flag; the trumpet (shophar, שׁוֹפָר) signaled war. This divine call to arms demonstrates God's sovereignty over nations—He orchestrates their military movements to fulfill His purposes.

The kingdoms named—Ararat (Armenia), Minni (Mannaeans south of Lake Urmia), and Ashchenaz (Scythians)—were northern peoples incorporated into the Median and Persian empires. Their mention shows prophetic precision: these specific peoples would participate in Babylon's conquest under Cyrus. The term "captain" (tipsar, טִפְסָר) is actually an Akkadian loanword meaning "tablet-writer" or "recruiting officer"—someone who musters troops.

The simile "horses...as the rough caterpillers" (yelek samer, יֵלֶק סָמֶר) refers to bristling locusts in their most destructive stage. Joel 1-2 uses locust imagery for invading armies; Jeremiah applies it to the Medo-Persian cavalry that would swarm

Babylon. The imagery emphasizes overwhelming numbers and unstoppable advance.

## Historical Context

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Cyrus the Great unified the Median and Persian kingdoms (550 BCE), incorporating northern territories including Ararat (Urartu/Armenia), Minni (Mannai), and Scythian tribes. His 539 BCE campaign against Babylon was indeed a multinational coalition exactly as prophesied.

The Nabonidus Chronicle and Cyrus Cylinder describe the conquest. Babylon's last king, Nabonidus, had alienated subject peoples through religious policies, and many welcomed Cyrus as liberator. The Persian cavalry was legendary—Herodotus describes their numbers and effectiveness. The prophecy's specific mention of these northern kingdoms, given decades before Babylon's fall, demonstrates divine foreknowledge. Jeremiah couldn't have known through natural means which specific coalition would conquer Babylon—only God knew.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

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

**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 God's summoning of specific nations against Babylon demonstrate His sovereignty over international affairs?
2. What does the locust imagery teach about the irresistible nature of divine judgment?
3. How should believers respond knowing God orchestrates world events, including military conflicts, for His purposes?

## Interlinear Text

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שָׂאוּ Set ye up H5375	נִס a standard H5251	בְּאֶרֶץ in the land H776	תִּקְעוּ blow H8628	שׁוֹפָר the trumpet H7782	גּוֹיִם among the nations H1471
קִדְּשׁוּ prepare H6942	עַל יְהוָה H5921	גּוֹיִם among the nations H1471	הַשֵּׁם יַעֲוֶה against her call together H8085	עַל יְהוָה H5921	
מִמְּלָכֹת against her the kingdoms H4467	וְעַל אֶרֶץ of Ararat H780	מִנִּי Minni H4508	וְאַשְׁכֶּנֶז and Ashchenaz H813	פִּקְדוּ appoint H6485	עַל יְהוָה H5921
טַפָּס ר a captain H2951	הָעֹלֹ to come up H5927	ס וּס against her cause the horses H5483	כִּלְק caterpillars H3218	סָמָר: as the rough H5569	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 10:3** (Parallel theme): And the sons of Gomer; Ashkenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah.

**1 Chronicles 1:6** (Parallel theme): And the sons of Gomer; Ashchenaz, and Riphath, and Togarmah.

**Genesis 8:4** (Parallel theme): And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.

**Jeremiah 50:2** (Parallel theme): Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces.

**Jeremiah 25:14** (Kingdom): For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands.

**Jeremiah 51:12** (Parallel theme): Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the LORD hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon.

**Isaiah 18:3** (Parallel theme): All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.

**Jeremiah 51:14** (Parallel theme): The LORD of hosts hath sworn by himself, saying, Surely I will fill thee with men, as with caterpillers; and they shall lift up a shout against thee.

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