

Parable of the Sword of the LORD

21:1 ¹AND the word of the LORD came to me saying, 2 “Son of man, ^aset your face toward Jerusalem, and ¹ ^bspeak against the sanctuaries, and prophesy against the land of Israel; 3 and say to the land of Israel, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Behold, ^aI am against you; and I shall draw My sword out of its sheath and cut off from you the ^brighteous and the wicked. 4 “Because I shall cut off from you the righteous and the wicked, therefore My sword shall go forth from its sheath against ^aall flesh from south *to* north. 5 “Thus all flesh will know that I, the LORD, have drawn My sword out of its sheath. It will ^anot return *to its sheath* again.” 6 “As for you, son of man, groan with breaking ¹ heart and bitter grief, groan in their sight. 7 “And it will come about when they say to you, ‘Why do you groan?’ that you will say, ‘Because of the ^anews that is coming; and ^bevery heart will melt, all hands will be feeble, every spirit will ¹ faint, and all knees will ² be weak as water. Behold, it comes and it will happen,’ declares the Lord ³ GOD.” 8 Again the word of the LORD came to me saying, 9 “Son of man, prophesy and say, ‘Thus says the LORD.’ Say,

^aA sword, a sword sharpened
And also polished!

10 ‘Sharpened to make a ^aslaughter,
Polished ¹to flash like lightning!’ Or shall we rejoice, the ²rod of My son
^bdespising every tree?

11 “And it is given to be polished, that it may be handled; the sword is sharpened and polished, to give it into the hand of the slayer. 12 “^aCry out and wail, son of man; for it is against My people, it is against all the ^bofficials of Israel. They are delivered over to the sword with My people, therefore strike *your* thigh. 13 “For *there is* a testing; and what if even the ¹rod which despises will be no more?” declares the Lord GOD.

14 “You therefore, son of man, prophesy, and clap *your* hands together; and let the sword be ^adoubled the third time, the sword for the slain. It is the sword for the great one slain, which surrounds them, 15 that *their* ^ahearts may melt, and many ^bfall at all their ^cgates. I have given the glittering sword. Ah! It is made *for striking* like lightning, it is wrapped up *in readiness* for slaughter. 16 “¹Show yourself sharp, go to the right; set yourself; go to the left, wherever your ²edge is appointed. 17 “I shall also clap My hands together, and I shall ¹ ^aappease My wrath; I, the LORD, have spoken.”

The Instrument of God's Judgment

18 And the word of the LORD came to me saying, 19 “As for you, son of man, ¹ ^amake two ways for the sword of the king of Babylon to come; both of them will go out of one land. And ²make a signpost; ³make it at the head of the way to the city. 20 “You shall ¹mark a way for the sword to come to ^aRabbah of the sons of Ammon, and to Judah into ^bfortified Jerusalem. 21 “For the king of Babylon stands at the ¹parting of the way, at the head of the two ways, to use ^adivination; he ^bshakes the arrows, he consults the ² ^chousehold idols, he looks at the liver. 22 “Into his right hand came the divination, ‘Jerusalem,’ to ^aset battering rams, to open the mouth ¹for slaughter, to lift up the voice with a battle cry, to set battering rams against the gates, to cast up mounds, to build a siege wall. 23 “And it will be to them like a false divination in their eyes; ^athey have

sworn solemn oaths. But he ^bbrings iniquity to remembrance, that they may be seized. 24 “Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Because you have made your iniquity to be remembered, in that your transgressions are uncovered, so that in all your deeds your sins appear—because you have come to remembrance, you will be seized with the hand. 25 ‘And you, O slain, wicked one, the prince of Israel, whose ^aday has come, in the time of the ¹punishment of the end,’ 26 thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Remove the turban, and take off the ^acrown; this will *be* ¹no more the same. ^bExalt that which is low, and abase that which is high. 27 ^a‘A ruin, a ruin, a ruin, I shall make it. This also will be no more, until ^bHe comes whose right it is; and I shall give it *to* Him.’

28 “And you, son of man, prophesy and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD concerning the sons of Ammon and concerning their ^areproach,’ and say: ‘A sword, a sword is drawn, polished for the slaughter, to cause it ¹to ^bconsume, that it may be like lightning— 29 while they see for you ^afalse visions, while they divine lies for you—to place you on the necks of the wicked who are slain, whose day has come, in the ^btime of the ¹punishment of the end. 30 ^a‘Return *it* to its sheath. In the ^bplace where you were created, in the land of your origin, I shall judge you. 31 ‘And I shall ^apour out My indignation on you; I shall ^bblow on you with the fire of My wrath, and I shall give you into the hand of brutal men, ¹ ^cskilled in destruction. 32 ‘You will be ¹ ^afuel for the fire; your blood will be in the midst of the land. You will ^bnot be remembered, for I, the LORD, have spoken.’”

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¹ Ch. 21:6 in Heb.

^a Ezek. 20:46; 25:2; 28:21

¹ Lit., *flow*

^b Job 29:22; Ezek. 20:46

^a Jer. 21:13; Ezek. 5:8; Nah. 2:13; 3:5

^b Is. 57:1

^a Jer. 12:12; Ezek. 7:2; 20:47

^a 1 Sam. 3:12; Jer. 23:20; Ezek. 21:30; Nah. 1:9

¹ Lit., *loins*

^a Ezek. 7:26

^b Is. 13:7; Nah. 2:10

¹ Lit., *be dim*

² Lit., *flow*

³ Heb., *YHWH*, usually rendered *LĪĪD*, and so throughout the ch.

^a Deut. 32:41

^a Is. 34:5, 6

¹ Lit., *lightning to be to her*

² Or, *scepter*

^b Ps. 110:5, 6; Ezek. 20:47

^a Ezek. 21:6; Joel 1:13

^b Ezek. 21:25; 22:6

¹ Or, *scepter*

^a Lev. 26:21, 24; 2 Kin. 24:1, 10-16; 25:1

^a Josh. 2:11; 2 Sam. 17:10; Ps. 22:14; Ezek. 21:7

^b Is. 59:10; Jer. 13:16; 18:15

^c Jer. 17:27; Ezek. 21:19

¹ Or, *Unite yourself*

² Lit., *face*

¹ Lit., *cause to rest*

^a Ezek. 5:13

¹ Or, *set for yourself*

^a Jer. 1:10; Ezek. 4:1-3

² Lit., *cut out a hand*

³ Lit., *cut it*

¹ Lit., *set*

^a Deut. 3:11; Jer. 49:2; Ezek. 25:5; Amos 1:14

^b Ps. 48:12, 13; 125:1, 2

¹ Lit., *mother*

^a Num. 22:7; 23:23

^b Prov. 16:33

² Heb., *teraphim*

^c Gen. 31:19, 30; Judg. 17:5; 18:17, 20

^a Ezek. 4:2; 26:9

¹ Lit., *in*

^a Ezek. 17:16, 18

^b Num. 5:15; Ezek. 21:24; 29:16

^a Ps. 37:13; Ezek. 7:2, 3, 7

¹ Or, *iniquity*

^a Jer. 13:18; Ezek. 16:12

¹ Lit., *not this*

^b Ps. 75:7; Ezek. 17:24

^a Hag. 2:21, 22

^b Ps. 2:6; 72:7, 10; Jer. 23:5, 6; Ezek. 34:24; 37:24

^a Ezek. 36:15; Zeph. 2:8-10

¹ Lit., *to finish*

^b Is. 31:8; Jer. 12:12; 46:10, 14

^a Jer. 27:9; Ezek. 13:6-9; 22:28

^b Ezek. 21:25; 35:5

¹ Or, *iniquity*

^a Jer. 47:6, 7

^b Ezek. 25:5

^a Ezek. 14:19; 25:7; Nah. 1:6

^b Ps. 18:15; Is. 30:33; Ezek. 22:20, 21; Hag. 1:9

¹ Or, *artisans of*

^c Jer. 4:7; 6:22, 23; 51:20-23; Hab. 1:6, 10

¹ Lit., *food*

^a Ezek. 20:47, 48; Mal. 4:1

^b Ezek. 25:10

ⁱ *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.