

Divine Guidance for the Agent of the Sword**When Witchcraft Work****Ezekiel 21:18–32**

Veritas Adult Community

February 2, 2020

The Text

¹⁸The following message of YHWH came to me: ¹⁹Now you, human, make two roads for the sword of the king of Babylon to advance, both originating in the same country. Carve a hand; at the fork of the road to the city carve it. ²⁰Mark a road for the sword to come: “Rabbah of Beney Ammon,” and “Judah, in fortified Jerusalem.” ²¹For the king of Babylon has paused at the source of the road, at the fork of the two roads, to consult an omen. He has shaken the arrows, consulted the idols, and examined the liver. ²²On the right side [of the liver] appears the omen, “Jerusalem”—to set up battering rams, to open the mouth with a roar, to sound the war cry, to set up battering rams against the gates, to heap up a siege ramp, to construct siege implements. ²³But to them it seemed like false divination. They are bound by the most solemn oaths, but it will expose the guilt and result in capture.

²⁴Therefore, thus had the Lord YHWH declared: Because you have exposed your guilt by disclosing your rebellious acts, bringing to light your sins through all your vile deeds—because you have exposed yourselves, you will be captured by force, ²⁵O you! O vile one! O criminal! O prince of Israel, whose day has arrived in time for your final punishment. ²⁶Thus has the Lord YHWH declared: Remove the turban! and take off the tiara! Let nothing remain the same! Raise the low and bring down the high! ²⁷Topsy turvy! Topsy-turvy! Topsy-turvy! That’s what I will make it—a disaster without equal—until he comes to whom the judgment belongs, and to whom I will give it.

²⁸As for you, human, prophesy and say: Thus has the Lord YHWH declared concerning the Beney Ammon and their scoffing. Say:

“A sword! A sword! Drawn for slaughter! Polished to consume, to flash like lightning—²⁹while they offer you false visions and divine deceitful omens—to place you upon the necks of the impious wicked ones, whose day has arrived in time for your final punishment. ³⁰Return it to its sheath. In the place where you were created, in the land of your origin, there I will judge you. ³¹And I will pour out my wrath upon you; with the fire of my fury I will blow upon you. I will deliver you into the hands of barbarians, experts in destruction. ³²You will be consigned as fuel for the fire; your blood will be (poured out) in the midst of the land. You shall not be remembered, for I am YHWH; I have spoken.

Exposition**The Avenging Sword of YHWH (20:45–21:32[21:1–37])**

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|----------------------------|------------|
| A. The Riddle of the Sword | 20:45–21:7 |
| B. The Song of the Sword | 21:8–17 |
| C. The Agent of the Sword | 21:18–27 |
| D. The Taunt of the Sword | 21:28–32 |

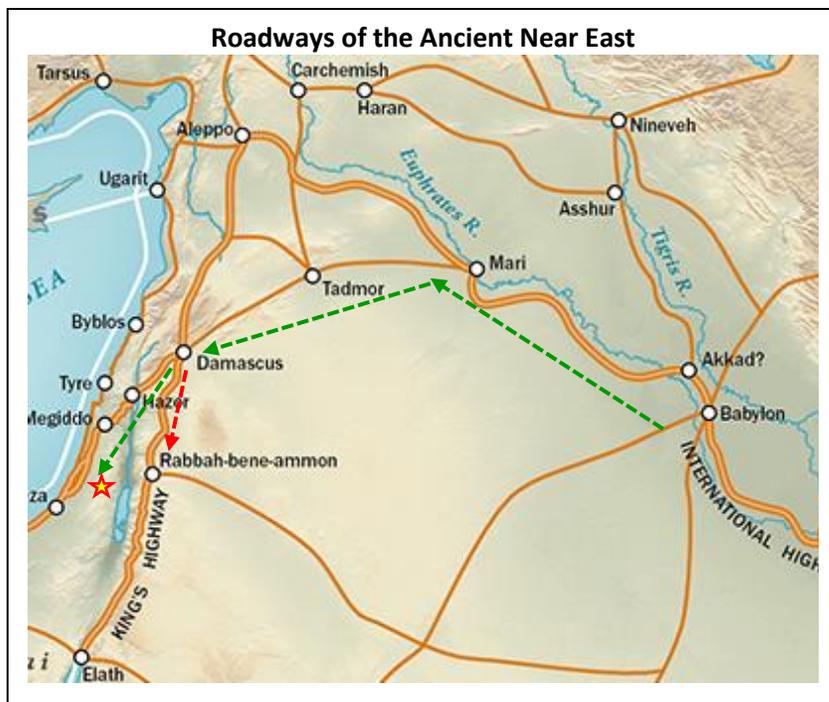
C. The Agent of the Sword (21:23–32)

1. The Sign-Act (21:18–20)

- a. Draw a map.
- b. Carve a hand.

2. The Interpretation (vv. 21–23)

- a. The Means of Revelation
 - (1) Rhabdomancy
 - (2) *Tērāfim*
 - (3) Hepatoscopy



- b. The People of Jerusalem's Response to the Revelation
 - (1) Cynical Dismissal
 - (2) Treacherous Defiance
3. **The Appeal to the Prince of Israel (vv. 24–27)**
 - a. Ezekiel's Disposition toward the Prince (v. 25)
 - b. Ezekiel's Message for the Prince (vv. 26–27a)
 - c. Ezekiel's Shocking Rhetorical Move (v. 27b)

D. The Taunt of the Sword (vv. 28–32)

1. **The Ammonite Version of the Sword Song (vv. 28–29)**
2. **The Fate of the Sword (vv. 30–32)]**

Application

1. God becomes the enemy of those who claim to be his people but refuse to accept the responsibilities accompanying the privilege.
2. YHWH is always true to his word.
3. In YHWH's execution of his plans and the achievement of his agenda he is not bound by human definitions of propriety. This applies both to the agents that he uses to accomplish his purposes, and the means by which he accomplishes his purposes.