

Jeremiah 49:34-39 NIV

This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning Elam, early in the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah: [35] This is what the LORD Almighty says: "See, I will break the bow of Elam, the mainstay of their might. [36] I will bring against Elam the four winds from the four quarters of heaven; I will scatter them to the four winds, and there will not be a nation where Elam's exiles do not go. [37] I will shatter Elam before their foes, before those who want to kill them; I will bring disaster on them, even my fierce anger," declares the LORD. "I will pursue them with the sword until I have made an end of them. [38] I will set my throne in Elam and destroy her king and officials," declares the LORD. [39] "Yet I will restore the fortunes of Elam in days to come," declares the LORD.

“Elam and the Hand of God in the Last Days”



Jeremiah 49:34-39 (NIV) speaks of a powerful word from the Lord against Elam, an ancient kingdom located in what is now modern-day southwestern Iran, near the Persian Gulf. This prophetic passage unveils both judgment and hope. A pattern we often see in God’s dealings with the nations.



Verse 35 says, ***“I will break the bow of Elam, the mainstay of their might.”*** Elam’s “bow” represents military strength. In modern times, Iran is known for its missile arsenal and regional aggression, supporting proxy militias and threatening Israel. Yet God declares He will break their power, not through politics, but by His divine hand.



Verse 36 says, **“I will bring against Elam the four winds...”** a symbol of total dispersion and judgment. Iran has faced rising internal unrest, economic collapse, international sanctions, and increasing isolation. God is scattering prideful nations who defy Him, and Elam is not exempt.



Verse 37: **“I will shatter Elam before their foes...”**

God’s fierce anger will confront the regime. In recent years, enemies of Iran have grown bold: from covert strikes to cyber warfare. These are not mere political tremors they are signs that God’s hand is moving.



Verse 38 is profound: **“I will set My throne in Elam...”** In the midst of chaos, God

declares dominion. This could hint at a spiritual revival in Iran—where many underground Christians are rising. Even today, Iran has one of the fastest-growing underground churches in the world, despite brutal persecution.



Verse 39 gives us hope: **“I will restore the fortunes of Elam in days to come.”** God always ends with redemption. Elam will not be forgotten. God has a redemptive plan for the people of Iran. Just as Saul of Tarsus became Paul, persecutors can become preachers when Jesus steps in.

1. God’s Sovereignty Over Nations

In these verses, God speaks through Jeremiah about Elam an ancient kingdom east of Babylon, roughly in modern southwestern Iran (Khuzestan/Ilam provinces). He declares that

He will break its power (***“break the bow... mainstay of their might”***), scatter its people, destroy its leaders, yet promises that in the future He will restore them (v. 39). God is sovereign: He can humble nations, judge them, but also promises restoration.

2. Elam Then—A Real Power

Elam was once a mighty empire, strategically located and influential across millennia. But by Jeremiah’s time (early reign of Zedekiah, around 597 BC), it was vulnerable—attacked by Babylon and Assyria eventually. Yet God’s message wasn’t only judgment—it spoke of hope and future restoration.

3. Parallels in Today’s World

Today, the area once known as Elam is part of Iran. This makes Jeremiah's oracle deeply relevant:

- Judgment and scattering: Nations that once held influence can fall sharply into isolation or turmoil.
- Leaders beware: God holds rulers accountable. v. 38 speaks of dismantling kings and officials.
- Promise of restoration: Even nations that have faced judgment are not beyond the reach of divine renewal—God ***“will restore the fortunes of Elam in days to come”*** (v. 39).

4. Applying the Message to Iran and Beyond

What might this mean for Iran (modern “Elam”)?

1. Awareness of history: Elam was a proud, strategic nation. Today, Iran continues to bear that mantle—culturally, politically, regionally.

2. God judges and redeems: Jeremiah's prophecy reminds us that no nation escapes God's moral scrutiny. Yet, He offers hope even to the humbled or scattered.

3. Call to intercession: Christians can pray for present-day Iran, its people, its churches, its governance. Recently, Christian ministry "Elam Ministries" notes growth of underground churches and encourages believers worldwide to pray for Iranians beyond their government.

4. Today's restoration: Verse 39 encourages us that God's kingdom transcends political sovereignties. While sovereignty shifts, God works transformation in hearts and history.

5. A Sermon Invitation

- To governments and leaders: God's justice is global. Leadership brings responsibility before God.
- To the church: We are called to pray for nations, grace within change, for peace and redemption.

- To believers in Iran/Iranian descent: You are heirs of a long, rich heritage. God sees your suffering and your hope and He promises restoration.

6. Conclusion: A Word of Hope

Jeremiah's word about Elam envelops judgment, scattering, devastation—and restoration. This dynamic speaks powerfully into today's world: even nations perceived as adversaries are within God's redemptive plan.

As we observe global events; especially in the region once called Elam, let us remember: God is calling both nations and individuals to repentance and renewal. May we stand in prayerful solidarity with those in modern Iran, embracing them as people God loves and intends to restore.



Final Word:

Look... these current events are not random. They are birth pains (Matthew 24) leading to the return of Jesus Christ. The shaking of Iran, the cry of believers in secret, and the fulfillment of ancient prophecy all declare one truth: God is sovereign over the nations. He breaks the proud and raises the humble. Let us watch, pray, and preach because the time is near.



Prayer:

“Father God, we lift up Iran, its people, culture, and spiritual hunger. We pray that You would heal fractures in its leadership, pour out mercy across its communities, and fulfill Your promise of restoration. May the ancient word to Elam find fresh life, bringing repentance, reconciliation, and revival.” In Jesus mighty name. Amen.