

# Isaiah 22:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou that art full of stirs, a tumultuous city, a joyous city: thy slain men are not slain with the sword, nor dead in battle.

## Analysis

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The city is full of tumult and revelry—ironically inappropriate given the crisis. This 'joyous city' characterized by celebration now experiences chaos. The slain aren't killed by sword (honorable military death) but by famine, disease, siege conditions. This distinguishes deaths of attrition from deaths in battle—the former being more shameful and prolonged suffering. The description captures siege reality: trapped population experiencing gradual deterioration rather than quick military defeat. This demonstrates judgment's sometimes-prolonged nature—not always swift but grinding, exhausting. The inappropriateness of revelry amid crisis illustrates human tendency toward denial and escapism when facing harsh realities.

## Historical Context

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During the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem (586 BCE), the city experienced exactly this: initial false confidence and celebration, followed by prolonged suffering as siege conditions produced famine and disease. Lamentations describes the horrors—starvation, cannibalism, disease decimating the population. Most deaths came from siege attrition rather than combat. Archaeological evidence from siege layers shows this pattern in ancient warfare. Modern parallels include besieged cities throughout history where non-combat deaths exceeded combat casualties. The prophecy accurately predicted Jerusalem's coming experience—inappropriate confidence giving way to catastrophic suffering under siege.

## Related Passages

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What does inappropriate revelry amid crisis teach about human denial and escapism?
2. How do siege deaths differ morally and experientially from combat deaths?
3. Why does prolonged judgment sometimes prove more terrible than swift military defeat?

## Interlinear Text

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עַלְיִז הַ קְרִי הַ		הַ הַזְּשָׁא וְתַ	
of stirs	H4393	city	a tumultuous
H8663		H5892	H1993
ל א סְלִלִי	ל א סְלִלִי	רַב	רַב
men are not slain	H3808	men are not slain	with the sword
H2491		H2491	H2719
מַתִּי אַל א סְלִלִי	מַתִּי אַל א סְלִלִי	רַב	רַב
מַלְחָמָה:			
in battle			
H4421			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 32:13** (Parallel theme): Upon the land of my people shall come up thorns and briars; yea, upon all the houses of joy in the joyous city:

**Isaiah 23:7** (Parallel theme): Is this your joyous city, whose antiquity is of ancient days? her own feet shall carry her afar off to sojourn.

**Jeremiah 14:18** (Word): If I go forth into the field, then behold the slain with the sword! and if I enter into the city, then behold them that are sick with famine! yea, both the prophet and the priest go about into a land that they know not.

**Lamentations 2:20** (Parallel theme): Behold, O LORD, and consider to whom thou hast done this. Shall the women eat their fruit, and children of a span long? shall the priest and the prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord?

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