

# Isaiah 29:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will camp against thee round about, and will lay siege against thee with a mount, and I will raise forts against thee.

## Analysis

**And I will camp against thee round about** (וְחִנֵּתִי כִּדְוֹר עַלְיךָ) vechaniti khadur alayikh)—the verb חנה (chanah, to encamp) appears throughout the conquest narratives when Israel besieged Canaanite cities. Now Yahweh Himself becomes the besieger. The phrase **and will lay siege against thee with a mount** (וְצִרְתִּי עַלְיךָ מִצְבָּה, vetsarti alayikh mutsav) uses military terminology: siege ramps, fortifications raised against city walls. **And I will raise forts against thee** (וְבָקִימָתִי עַלְיךָ מַצְרָת) completes the siege imagery.

The shocking reversal is complete: the God who fought for Israel at Jericho now deploys siege tactics against His own city. He becomes the commanding general of the opposing army. This is not Satan attacking; this is Yahweh executing covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28:49-52). The divine Warrior who protected Jerusalem now orchestrates its humiliation.

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern sieges involved surrounding a city, cutting off supplies, building earthen ramps to scale walls, and constructing siege towers. The Assyrians, and later Babylonians, were masters of siege warfare. Isaiah's military language would be devastatingly clear to his audience—God would use these very empires as His instruments.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What does it reveal about God's character that He would besiege His own people?
2. How do we reconcile God's love with His willingness to bring severe discipline?
3. When has God 'laid siege' to areas of your life that resisted His authority?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיַחֲנֵן	כִּדְוָר	עַל־יְהוָה	אֶצְרָת	עַל־יְהוָה
And I will camp	against thee round about	H5921	and will lay siege	H5921
H2583	H1754	H6696		

  

מִצְבֵּחַ	עַל־יְהוָה	מִצְרָת:	עַל־יְהוָה	מִצְרָת:
against thee with a mount	and I will raise	H5921	forts	H4694

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 21:22** (Parallel theme): At his right hand was the divination for Jerusalem, to appoint captains, to open the mouth in the slaughter, to lift up the voice with shouting, to appoint battering rams against the gates, to cast a mount, and to build a fort.