

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 (וְחָנִיתִי כְּדֹר עָלֶיךָ, vechaniti khadur alayikh)—the verb חָנָה (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** (וְצָרְתִּי וְעָלֶיךָ מִצֵּב, vetsarti alayikh mutsav) uses military terminology: siege ramps, fortifications raised against city walls. **And I will raise forts against thee** (וְהִקְיִמֹתִי עָלֶיךָ מְצֻרֹת, vahaqimothi alayikh metsurot) 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

וְחָנּוּ יָתִי	כָּד וֹר	עַל יְיָ	וְצָרָתִי	עַל יְיָ
And I will camp	against thee round about	H5921	and will lay siege	H5921
H2583	H1754		H6696	
מִצָּב	וְהִקִּימֹתִי	עַל יְיָ	מִצָּרֹת:	
against thee with a mount	and I will raise	H5921	forts	
H4674	H6965		H4694	

Additional Cross-References

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.