

Isaiah 29:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, even all that fight against her and her munition, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision.

Analysis

And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel (וְהָיָה כְּחֶלֶם חֲזוֹן, vehayah kachalom chazon laylah hamon kol-hagoyim hatsobim al-Ariel)—the attacking nations will become **as a dream of a night vision**. The phrase employs two words for visionary experience: חֶלֶם (chalom, dream) and חֲזוֹן (chazon, vision). **Even all that fight against her and her munition, and that distress her** (וְכָל-צָבֶיהָ וְמַצְדֹּתֶיהָ וְהַמְצִיקִים לָהּ, vekhol-tsoveha umtsodatah vehametsiqim lah)—the comprehensive listing (all who war, all siegeworks, all who press her) emphasizes totality.

The dream metaphor is devastating: Sennacherib's vast army—real, threatening, deadly—will vanish like a nightmare dissolves at dawn. History's mightiest military force becomes insubstantial as nocturnal hallucination. What seemed overwhelmingly real proves ephemeral when God acts. The besiegers' power is exposed as illusory against Yahweh's sovereignty.

Historical Context

Sennacherib invaded Judah with a massive army, conquering 46 fortified cities (per his own annals) and trapping Hezekiah in Jerusalem 'like a bird in a cage.' Yet Jerusalem wasn't captured. The Assyrian army's sudden destruction meant this overwhelming military reality evaporated like a dream—precisely as Isaiah prophesied.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What 'overwhelming realities' in your life might God reveal as mere 'dreams' when He intervenes?
2. How does this metaphor challenge our tendency to view human power as ultimate?
3. When have you experienced an intimidating circumstance dissolve 'like a dream' through prayer?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה הַ	כְּחֵלוֹם	חֵזוֹן	לַיְלָה	וְהַמִּטְּוֶה	כָּל
H1961	her shall be as a dream	vision	of a night	And the multitude	H3605
	H2472	H2377	H3915	H1995	
הַגּוֹיִם	צָבָה יְהוָה	עַל	אֶרִיאֵל	וְכָל	צָבָה יְהוָה
of all the nations	that fight	H5921	against Ariel	H3605	that fight
H1471	H6633		H740		H6633
וּמַצְבֵּי הָ	וְהַמְצִיקָהּ	לָהּ:			
against her and her munition	and that distress	H0			
H4685	H6693				

Additional Cross-References

Job 20:8 (Parallel theme): He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found: yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night.

Zechariah 12:9 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

Isaiah 17:14 (Parallel theme): And behold at eveningtide trouble; and before the morning he is not. This is the portion of them that spoil us, and the lot of them that rob us.

Psalms 73:20 (Parallel theme): As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org