

# Jeremiah 33:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah, which are thrown down by the mounts, and by the sword;

## Analysis

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**The houses of this city, and the houses of the kings of Judah, which are thrown down** (הִנְתִּיצוֹת, hannetutzot, torn down, demolished)—God acknowledges the brutal reality: defensive **mounts** (סִלְלוֹת, solelot, siege ramps) and **the sword** (חֶרֶב, cherev) have demolished even royal palaces. Homes were dismantled to fortify walls against Babylonian siege engines—a desperate, futile defense.

This verse doesn't minimize judgment's severity. The passive participle 'thrown down' depicts completed destruction. Yet God speaks of these ruins in a promise of restoration (v. 6-7), proving His grace rebuilds what His justice demolished. Romans 11:22 balances this: 'Behold the goodness and severity of God.'

## Historical Context

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During the Babylonian siege (588-586 BC), Jerusalem's defenders tore down houses to build defensive positions and obtain materials for wall repairs. The city consumed itself trying to survive. Royal houses weren't spared—even privilege couldn't escape judgment. Archaeological evidence from the destruction layer confirms this catastrophic dismantling.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's honest acknowledgment of devastation (rather than minimizing it) prepare you to receive His restoration promises?
2. What 'houses' in your life have been torn down by consequences of sin—personal or corporate?
3. How does the fact that God's judgment fell even on 'the houses of the kings' speak to the impartiality of divine justice?

## Interlinear Text

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עַל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	ל	אֱלֹהֵי	יְהוָה	אָמַר	כֹּה	כִּי
H5921	H3478		H430	H3068	H559	H3541	H3588
	of Israel		the God	the LORD	For thus saith		
בֵּיתִי	וְעַל	הַזֶּה	אֵת	הָעִיר	בֵּיתִי		
H1004	H5921	H2063		H5892	H1004		
and concerning the houses		of this city			and concerning the houses		
וְאֵל	הַסִּלָּל	וְעַל	הַנִּתְּצִים	יְהוּדָה	מַלְכֵי		
H413	H5550	H413	H5422	H3063	H4428		
by the mounts		which are thrown down	of Judah	of the kings			
					וְהָרֶבֶץ:		
					H2719		
					and by the sword		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 32:24** (Word): Behold the mounts, they are come unto the city to take it; and the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans, that fight against it, because of the sword, and of the famine, and of the pestilence: and what thou hast spoken is come to pass; and, behold, thou seest it.

**Ezekiel 4:2** (Parallel theme): And lay siege against it, and build a fort against it, and cast a mount against it; set the camp also against it, and set battering rams against it round about.

**Habakkuk 1:10** (Kingdom): And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every strong hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it.

**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.