

# Jeremiah 51:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Against him that bendeth let the archer bend his bow, and against him that lifteth himself up in his brigandine: and spare ye not her young men; destroy ye utterly all her host.

## Analysis

**Against him that bendeth let the archer bend his bow**—God commands the invaders to show no mercy to Babylon's warriors. The repetition of 'bend' (darak, דָּרַךְ, to tread, bend the bow) emphasizes aggressive combat. **And against him that lifteth himself up in his brigandine**—the siryon (סִירֵיָן, coat of mail, scale armor) represents military preparedness, but even Babylon's best-equipped soldiers cannot withstand God's judgment.

**And spare ye not her young men; destroy ye utterly all her host**—the command for complete military annihilation echoes the herem (הֶרְמֵם, devoted to destruction) applied to Canaanite cities. God's instrument of judgment (Babylon) becomes the object of judgment. The 'young men' (bachurim, בָּחוּרִים) and 'host' (tsava, צְבָא, army) represent Babylon's military might, which will be comprehensively destroyed.

## Historical Context

Babylon's army, famous for conquering the known world, suffered decisive defeat. When Cyrus conquered Babylon in 539 BC, resistance was minimal. The Nabonidus Chronicle records that 'the army of Cyrus entered Babylon without battle.' Subsequent Babylonian revolts (522 BC, 484 BC) were crushed by Persian forces. Xerxes I particularly devastated Babylon after the 484 BC revolt,

destroying its fortifications and military capacity. The mighty army that terrorized nations was indeed 'utterly destroyed.'

## Related Passages

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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. What does God's command to 'spare not' teach about the severity and completeness of divine judgment?
2. How does the destruction of Babylon's military might demonstrate that physical strength and weapons are powerless against God's purposes?
3. What does this verse teach about the accountability of military forces that serve unjust empires?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶל	פְּדָרָנָה	פְּדָרָנָה	פְּדָרָנָה
H413	Against him that bendeth	Against him that bendeth	Against him that bendeth
	H1869	H1869	H1869
וְאֶל קְשָׁתֵּו	וְאֶל קְשָׁתֵּו	וְאֶל קְשָׁתֵּו	וְאֶל קְשָׁתֵּו
his bow	H408	and against him that lifteth himself up	H413
H7198		H5927	H5630
וְאֶל פְּתַחְמָלוֹ	וְאֶל פְּתַחְמָלוֹ	וְאֶל פְּתַחְמָלוֹ	וְאֶל פְּתַחְמָלוֹ
and spare	H413	ye not her young men	H3605
H2550		H970	H2763
כֹּל אֶבְאָהָוָה	כֹּל אֶבְאָהָוָה	כֹּל אֶבְאָהָוָה	כֹּל אֶבְאָהָוָה

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 50:14** (Parallel theme): Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about: all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD.

**Jeremiah 46:4** (Parallel theme): Harness the horses; and get up, ye horsemen, and stand forth with your helmets; furbish the spears, and put on the brigandines.

**Jeremiah 50:21** (Parallel theme): Go up against the land of Merathaim, even against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod: waste and utterly destroy after them, saith the LORD, and do according to all that I have commanded thee.

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