

Job 19:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His troops come together, and raise up their way against me,
and encamp round about my tabernacle.

Analysis

His troops come together (יַחַד יָבֹאוּ גִדּוּדָיו, yachad yavo'u gedudav)—Job shifts to military metaphor. The גִּדּוּד (gedud, 'raiding band/troops') suggests organized assault, not random calamity. Job's suffering feels coordinated, strategic—an siege laid by divine forces.

And raise up their way against me, and encamp round about my tabernacle (וַיִּסְלֹוּ עָלַי דִּרְכָם וַיִּחַנו סָבִיב לְאֹהֶלִי)—The verb סָלַל (salal, 'to cast up, lift up') describes building siege ramps (2 Samuel 20:15). The verb חָנָה (chanah, 'to encamp') depicts military encirclement. Job portrays himself as a besieged city—God's armies have invested his tent (life) for total destruction. Yet this same verb chanah describes God's angel encamping around the righteous (Psalm 34:7).

Historical Context

Ancient warfare involved siege tactics where armies would surround a city, build ramps, and systematically break down defenses. Job's original audience would immediately recognize this imagery of helpless encirclement and inevitable defeat.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Job's military siege imagery help articulate the comprehensive nature of overwhelming suffering?
2. What is the spiritual danger of perceiving coordinated divine assault rather than permitted Satanic testing (as the prologue reveals)?
3. How might the imagery of troops 'encamping' around Job relate to spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:12)?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּרָם עַל יְהוָה וַיָּסֵ לוֹ
together **come** **His troops** **and raise up** H5921 **their way**
H3162 H935 H1416 H5549 H1870

וַיִּחַן וַיִּסְבּוּ סָבִיב לְאֹהֶלִי
against me and encamp **round about** **my tabernacle**
H2583 H5439 H168

Additional Cross-References

Job 30:12 (Resurrection): Upon my right hand rise the youth; they push away my feet, and they raise up against me the ways of their destruction.