

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 (יחד יבאו גָּדוּ, yachad yavo'u gedudav)—Job shifts to military metaphor. The גָּדוּ (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 (עלִי זָרַכְתָּם תְּחִנֵּן סְבִיב לְאַפְלֵי)—The verb סָלַל (salal, 'to cast up, lift up') describes building siege ramps (2 Samuel 20:15). The verb צָהָה (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

וְרָאֵתִי מִשְׁעָלֵךְ לְאָמֵן גָּדְדָּךְ יְבָאֵן אָוֶן כָּלָן
together come His troops and raise up H5921 their way
H3162 H935 H1416 H5549 H1870

לְאָמֵן וְיִתְּחַנֵּן יְבָאֵן
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.

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