Ezekiel Part 2: Prophecies of Judgment on Jerusalem and Judah

Part 2, Week One - Signs in a Four Acts' Performance Starring Ezekiel, a Brick, Meager Rations, and Some Hair – Ezekiel 4-5

Last week I promised you that Ezekiel would be doing some pretty weird, bizarre stuff in Ezekiel chapters 4-5.

Why did God tell Ezekiel in chapter 3:24 to shut himself up inside his house? Do you really think he stayed there all the time?

Why did the people bind Ezekiel with ropes so that he could not go out among the people in chapter 3:25? Was God communicating to Ezekiel through this and was He communicating to the people by allowing this action? Do you think Ezekiel allowed himself to be bound 24/7?

Why did God make Ezekiel's tongue to stick to the top of his mouth and to be silent and unable to speak to the Israelites in normal conversation according to chapter 3:26? Again, what was God communicating to Ezekiel and what was He communicating to the people through this act? Do you think Ezekiel was this way permanently or could he carry on a regular conversation with his wife inside his house? Do you remember another person in Scripture that God closed his mouth until a certain time? See Luke 1:5-23. This man, also, was a priest!

Why would God have Ezekiel act out all the following performances? Which of the five senses would not be the way Ezekiel could communicate with the people? And why could he not communicate with them in this way?

When would God allow Ezekiel to speak? See Ezekiel 3:27.

Days 1-2 – Acts 1 & 2, Signs to the House of Israel – Ezekiel 4:1-8

Please take a few moments to just read over chapters 4 and 5. After reading, please mark your worksheets with your unique marking(s) for the following key words for Ezekiel 4:1-8:

"Ezekiel" and all pronouns for Ezekiel as one marking, including "son of Man"

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"sign"
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all language that refers to numbers or quantifiers in some way all references to "God"

Mark all references to time in the left margin of the double-spaced worksheet in the Appendix, including "a day for each year"

Make a list of what God told Ezekiel to do in the margin of your double-spaced worksheet for Ezekiel 4:1-8 and also below.

Make a list of what Ezekiel is to do on his left side in the margin of your double-spaced worksheet for Ezekiel and also below. Why 390 days? Think in terms of "number of days corresponding to the years of their iniquity." Whose iniquity? What was their iniquity?

Make a list of what Ezekiel is to do on his right side in the margin of your double-spaced worksheet for Ezekiel and also below. Why 40 days? Again, think in terms of years of "number of days corresponding to the years of their iniquity." Whose iniquity? What was their iniquity?

Did Ezekiel really bear the sins of the Northern Kingdom on his body for 390 days and the sins of the Southern Kingdom for 40 days? Or is this totally symbolic? If symbolic, what is the symbolism?

Why would God call Ezekiel to give these live action performances or mini-sermons to the sons of Israel? See Ezekiel chapter 2. Remember the Israelites were very hard headed. Also see Ezekiel 3:26-27.

Why do you think that God made Ezekiel unable to speak except when He made him speak His words to the people? What effect does contrast have?

[&]quot;Israel"

[&]quot;brick" and all pronouns for "brick" as one marking

[&]quot;left side" as separate from "right side"

[&]quot;sin," "iniquity" as one marking

[&]quot;the house of Israel" separate from the "house of Judah"

[&]quot;Jerusalem" or "the city" and its pronouns

What did the "brick" signify in 4:1-3? What did Ezekiel sketch onto the brick? The KJV uses the word "tile" and I think it better depicts that the brick was like a clay tablet that would be used on which to write words or inscribe a picture.

When Ezekiel "played" soldier, how did he act out the siege of Jerusalem?

What did Ezekiel set up all around the model of Jerusalem so that no one could go in or out of the city?

Why did Ezekiel build a ramp? What did he mean by building battering rams?

What was going to happen to Jerusalem?

Why did Ezekiel place an "iron plate" between himself and the city? What was this signifying about God's viewpoint? What is the object lesson here? See Ezekiel 5:8.

Day 3 – Act 3, Meager Rations – Ezekiel 4:9-17

Again, today mark the following key words for Ezekiel 4:9-17:

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"Ezekiel" and all references to Ezekiel as one marking, i.e., "son of man" all references to Israel, including "sons of Israel"
"side"
"sin," "iniquity" as one marking all references including pronouns to "Jerusalem" as one marking
"the nations"
all language that refers to numbers or quantifiers as you did before in day 1 of this week's lesson
all references to "God"
"water"
all references to 'bread' as one marking, including those ingredients making up the bread, i.e.
"millet, "spelt," "wheat," 'barley," "beans," "lentils."
"then the LORD said"
Mark all references to time in the left margin of the double-spaced worksheet.
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Make a list describing the food Ezekiel is to eat, including what he has to cook his food

over in the right margin of your double-spaced worksheets and also below:

Look up the Levitical law concerning the eating or handling of dead animals. See Leviticus 17:15, 22:8 and Deuteronomy 14:3. If Ezekiel had eaten his bread cooked over human excrement, would he have violated either a ceremonial or dietary law? Write your thoughts below:

What concession did God make for Ezekiel's aversion to eating food cooked over human excrement?

What was the use of human excrement a sign of to the Israelites in this case? Perhaps, the better thought here is to ask the question, why would God have Ezekiel play out this part of cooking his meager rations over dung? Think about what is shortly going to take place for these Jews and to what the conditions will be like for normal activities like eating, drinking, etc.? Will they be able to concern themselves with the dietary or ceremonial laws?

What concession did God <u>not</u> make for Peter in the New Testament when he refused to eat that which God told him to eat in Acts 10:14?

Make a list describing the water Ezekiel is to drink, including how much and how often in the right margin of your double-spaced worksheets and also below:

Make a list of what is to be the ingredients of the bread Ezekiel is to eat? Do you suppose this was the best of the land or was it dried, very old leftovers for supper?

How much is 20 shekels a day of food or 1/6 part of a hin of drink? What did this indicate about the coming siege?

Again, what does Ezekiel's baring of his arm signify?

Do you think God has been patient enough with His people and its now time for judgment or do you think God should show just a little more patience and hope the Israelites will come around?

Day 4 – Act 4, Some Hair – Ezekiel 5:1-17

Again today mark the following key words for Ezekiel 5:1-17:

"Ezekiel" and all other references to Ezekiel

all references to "hair" as one marking, including "a barber's razor on your head and beard"

all references to "Israel"

all references to "Jerusalem"

all references to "the nations," including the lands which surround her"

all language that refers to numbers or quantifiers as you did before, including fractions

all references to God

all "ordinances" and "statutes" as one marking

all references to "thus says the Lord GOD," "declares the Lord GOD," or "I, the LORD,

have spoken," as one marking

"few in number" and "remnant" as one marking

"abominations" and "idols" as one marking

"My eye shall have (or show) no pity and I will not spare (nor will I spare)"

all references to God's "wrath" or "anger" or "raging rebukes" as one marking

Make a list to the right of your double-spaced worksheet for Ezek. 5:1-17 and also below for the following:

Ezekiel's hair and how it was to be divided and applied:

What does the LORD God say immediately after each of the times He repeats, "thus says the Lord GoD?" Why does God use this statement, "thus says the Lord GoD" three times?

What are the conditions immediately preceding God saying, "I, the LORD have spoken" three times in verses 5:13-5:17? Why does God use this statement three times?

Again, I ask you, how dangerous was it for Ezekiel to pronounce the words, "Thus says the LORD God?" What do these words mean in reference to Ezekiel's status as a prophet in the eyes of the people?

How will all of Israel know that a true prophet of God, named Ezekiel, has been in their midst? When will they know this for sure?

What's with the hair? Remember that Ezekiel is a priest. Check out Numbers 6:5; 8:7, and especially Leviticus 21:5-6. Why was it important that priests trim their hair only according to the law? Why was it so important for the male Israelites who took the Nazarite vow to leave their hair uncut during their time of dedication?

It would have been a very unusual "thing" to see Ezekiel, who was a priest, shave his head in public. What significance can you assign to Ezekiel using a sword instead of a razor to shave his head?

God commanded Ezekiel to divide up his shorn hair and he was to weigh it carefully. I'm not really certain that unless he had extremely thick hair that its weight would have even registered on the crude balances of his day. How many parts was Ezekiel to divide his hair? And what was Ezekiel to do for each of the parts? What purpose did each part serve in the picture God was painting for them?

What or who is the small portion of hair that Ezekiel is commanded to hide in the hem of his garment?

What is God's eternal purpose for the city of Jerusalem? See Ezekiel 5:5.

What was and still is God's eternal purpose for His people? I need to give you the answer to this question because it is a compilation of all that we have studied about the Jewish people. The Jews were to be so obedient to their God and He would bless them so fully that the rest of the world's people would see how good He was and they, too, would come under the wings of Jehovah and worship Him alone. See Exodus 32:9-14 and John 4:22. The Jews failed miserably, didn't they?

Considering the last three questions, why would God allow the Israelites to do what they did and come under His awful judgment for sin in the sight of the rest of the nations? See Ezekiel 5:6.

Did Israel sin more than the other nations around her according to Ezekiel 5:5-8?

God reveals names He goes by in Scripture to tell us something about His character. El Kanna and Esh Oklah are two names that give us a picture of His righteous justice and His holiness. He is an all-consuming fire in His judgment against sin. Ezekiel's first vision of the flying throne room of God had glowing bronze coming from the Glory.

Glowing bronze is a symbol of judgment. God came in that vision as an all-consuming fire and His intent is to judge the sins of the Israelites. We see in Ezekiel 5:12-17 that 1/3 of the people will die by the sword, 1/3 will die by famine and subsequent disease, and 1/3 will be given to the wind and they will be deported into captivity to Babylon. The whole of the land will be decimated and unfit for habitation. What shame they brought Him when they should have been the light to point people to His glory!

Let's take a look at the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:6. What would the church of Ephesus lose if they did not repent of their sins, turn back to God, and be obedient to Him once again?

Back to Ezekiel, what will happen to the faithful Remnant, those who have continued in obedience and walked in His statues and ordinances and who have not bowed their knee to idols? Is there a future for them or will they suffer the same fate as the rest of the idolatrous Israelites?

I would like you to decide on one theme each for chapters 4 and 5 and record those themes at the beginning of each of the chapters on the double-spaced worksheets in the Appendix and also on the Theme Summary Chart, also in the Appendix.

Day 5 – Acts 1-4 –Personal Application - Ezekiel 4-5

These questions are as much for me as they are for you.

Is it possible to rebel against God for such a long time, that God will eventually allow you to reap the consequences of your own rebellion?

Will God ever take out (cause to die) Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ today for willfully continuing in a sin? If so, will the person willfully sinning be judged and sent to hell for that sin?

What about you? Have you remained faithful to your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? Or have you strayed and want to come back into right standing with Him again? You know that he will take you back if you would but confess your sin, repent and return to Him. Who will be your advocate before the Father for this scenario?

Have you ever been bound by other people like Ezekiel was bound by the Israelites while he was in his house? In other words, have you ever not been able to communicate with another because they have forbidden you to speak with them about a certain subject? I have. A gal I know very well has forbidden me to speak to her about the Lord. She

doesn't want to have anything to do with my version of Jesus. What is the correct response for me to have toward this gal?

What do you think Paul meant when he said that faith comes by hearing in Romans 10:17? Read the surrounding verses in Romans 10.

My son's wife is deaf. She is a strong Believer in Jesus Christ. She has never physically heard the Gospel message. However, she does read lips. How can she have faith if it only comes by hearing? Has she "heard?"

Yes, God uses more than spoken words to communicate.

Have you ever looked at the mountains in the morning and thought to yourself or even said out loud, "How can a man not know that God is?" Man has no excuse. God says, "THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."

The Israelites, of all people, had been privileged to have the Law, the Prophets, and God's presence in His temple. They willfully disobeyed God's Law, they stoned the prophets, and they shunned God's presence so that He eventually left the Temple and his dwelling place with them.

Backing up into Romans 1:18-20, the Scripture says this, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

Do you ever wonder in your mind if God is just in His judgment of the Jews or even of Mankind? I do. And then I read about how the Israelites hurt Him. I read how he was longsuffering for 430 years with both the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In Isaiah 1:5-8, God did absolutely everything to woo the Israelites back to Himself and yet they still wouldn't "listen" and repent and turn back and be forgiven. Write your thoughts below.

I recently listened to a CD where a gal gave her testimony. She lived in Bosnia, very poor, her childhood taken away by war, meager rations were shared with the other five

¹ Romans 10:18, Isaiah 52:7

members of her family. She had to walk five miles to school every day in the cold and sometimes wet snow, never knowing whether she would make it to school without getting killed by the land mines embedded in the dirt of her homeland. Her shoes had huge holes in them and they did not keep the wet or the cold out. She prayed every day to her "real God," not the god of her Muslim parents, Allah. She knew that her real God existed. One day at school, Operation Christmas Child, brought shoeboxes to the children. In this gal's box was a new pair of white sneakers. Who, in another country would send such a gift to her? She was told that Jesus sent them to her. Her mother asked her when she got home, who sent them to her? She replied, some guy in America named Jesus. Next day, she went back and the man who presented her with a shoebox the day before told her of Jesus, the Son of God, who died for her sins, and that day, she was reborn. She was joyous; she had been correct in her assessment of the "real God." She knew her "real God" was truly out there.

Are you ever hard headed, stubborn, rebellious against the LORD?

Do you choose time with your idols of this world over time with Him? Sadly, I must tell you that sometimes I do.

In Ezekiel, 5:11, God said "He had had it with the Israelites" in this way, "My eye shall have no pity and I will not spare." His loving-kindness and long suffering were wasted on those who had defiled His sanctuary with idols and abominations. He was now leaving and He refused to look on them any longer.

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Chapter 4

Chapter Theme

- <u>Ezek. 4:1</u> "Now you son of man, get yourself a brick, place it before you, and inscribe a city on it, Jerusalem.
- Ezek. 4: 2 "Then lay siege against it, build a siege wall, raise up a ramp, pitch camps, and place battering rams against it all around.
- <u>Ezek. 4:3</u> "Then get yourself an iron plate and set it up as an iron wall between you and the city, and set your face toward it so that it is under siege, and besiege it. This is a sign to the house of Israel.
- <u>Ezek. 4:4</u> "As for you, lie down on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel on it; you shall bear their iniquity for the number of days that you lie on it.
- <u>Ezek. 4:5</u> "For I have assigned you a number of days corresponding to the years of their iniquity, three hundred and ninety days; thus you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.
- Ezek. 4:6 "When you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, but on your right side, and bear the iniquity of the house of Judah; I have assigned it to you for forty days, a day for each year.
- Ezek. 4:7 "Then you shall set your face toward the siege of Jerusalem with your arm bared, and prophesy against it.
- <u>Ezek. 4:8</u> "Now behold, I will put ropes on you so that you cannot turn from one side to the other, until you have completed the days of your siege.
- Ezek. 4:9 "But as for you, take wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet and spelt, put them in one vessel and make them into bread for yourself; you shall eat it according to the number of the days that you lie on your side, three hundred and ninety days.
- Ezek. 4:10 "And your food which you eat shall be twenty shekels a day by weight; you shall eat it from time to time.
- Ezek. 4:11 "And the water you drink will be the sixth part of a hin by measure; you shall drink it from time to time.
- Ezek. 4:12 "And you shall eat it as a barley cake, having baked it in their sight over human dung."
- Ezek. 4:13 Then the LORD said, "Thus shall the sons of Israel eat their bread unclean among the nations where I shall banish them."
- Ezek. 4:14 But I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I have never been defiled; for from my youth until now I have never eaten what died of itself or was torn by beasts, nor has any unclean meat ever entered my mouth."

Ezek. 4:15 Then He said to me, "See, I shall give you cow's dung in place of human dung over which you will prepare your bread."

<u>Ezek. 4:16</u> Moreover, He said to me, "Son of man, behold, I am going to break the staff of bread in Jerusalem, and they will eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and drink water by measure and in horror,

Ezek. 4:17 because bread and water will be scarce; and they will be appalled with one another and waste away in their iniquity.

Chapter 5

Chapter Theme

- 5:1 "As for you, son of man, take a sharp sword; take and use it as a barber's razor on your head and beard. Then take scales for weighing and divide the hair.
- 5:2 "One third you shall burn in the fire at the center of the city, when the days of the siege are completed. Then you shall take one third and strike it with the sword all around the city, and one third you shall scatter to the wind; and I will unsheathe a sword behind them.
- 5:3 "Take also a few in number from them and bind them in the edges of your robes.
- <u>5:4</u> "And take again some of them and throw them into the fire, and burn them in the fire; from it a fire will spread to all the house of Israel.
- <u>5:5</u> "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'This is Jerusalem; I have set her at the center of the nations, with lands around her.
- 5:6 'But she has rebelled against My ordinances more wickedly than the nations and against My statutes more than the lands which surround her; for they have rejected My ordinances and have not walked in My statutes.'
- 5:7 "Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Because you have more turmoil than the nations which surround you, and have not walked in My statutes, nor observed My ordinances, nor observed the ordinances of the nations which surround you,'
- 5:8 therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I, even I, am against you, and I will execute judgments among you in the sight of the nations.
- 5:9 'And because of all your abominations, I will do among you what I have not done, and the like of which I will never do again.
- 5:10 'Therefore, fathers will eat their sons among you, and sons will eat their fathers; for I will execute judgments on you, and scatter all your remnant to every wind.

- 5:11 'So as I live,' declares the Lord GOD, 'surely, because you have defiled My sanctuary with all your detestable idols and with all your abominations, therefore I will also withdraw, and My eye shall have no pity and I will not spare.
- 5:12 'One third of you will die by plague or be consumed by famine among you, one third will fall by the sword around you, and one third I will scatter to every wind, and I will unsheathe a sword behind them.
- 5:13 'Thus My anger will be spent, and I will satisfy My wrath on them, and I shall be appeased; then they will know that I, the LORD, have spoken in My zeal when I have spent My wrath upon them.
- 5:14 'Moreover, I will make you a desolation and a reproach among the nations which surround you, in the sight of all who pass by.
- 5:15 'So it will be a reproach, a reviling, a warning and an object of horror to the nations who surround you, when I execute judgments against you in anger, wrath, and raging rebukes. I, the LORD, have spoken.
- 5:16 'When I send against them the deadly arrows of famine which were for the destruction of those whom I shall send to destroy you, then I shall also intensify the famine upon you, and break the staff of bread.
- 5:17 'Moreover, I will send on you famine and wild beasts, and they will bereave you of children; plague and bloodshed also will pass through you, and I will bring the sword on you. I, the LORD, have spoken."

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at the center of the nations	more turmoil than the nations	in the site of the other nations
"Thus says the Lord GOD, 'This is Jerusalem; I have set her at the center of the nations, with lands around her. But she has rebelled against My ordinances more wickedly than the nations and against My statutes more than the lands which surround her; for they have rejected My ordinances and have not walked in My statutes"	"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Because you have more turmoil than the nations which surround you, and have not walked in My statutes, nor observed My ordinancees, nor observed the ordinances of the nations which surround you,,"	"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Because you have more turmoil than the nations which surround you, and have not walked in My statutes, nor observed My ordinancees, nor observed the ordinance of the nations which surround you," "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I, even I, am against you, and I will execute judgenents among you in the sight of the nations"

-Babylon, both in the land and in their land -nations surrounding Israel, in their own lands, and in captivity in Babylon -other egs:

Rahab

Moab - Is. 16:1-7; Num. 22,

Egyptians - Exod. 32:1-14

Other nations - why has the LORD done this to this land? Ezek.6:14, 7:23,

Ouestions:

Why do you think Solomon prayed tht God would hear the prayers of foreigners when What is the connection between repentance and answered prayer? What does it mean to confess God's name? (his reputation) they prayed toward the Temple - 1 Kings 8:41-43

Suggestions:

Pray that God will get the glory for every good thing you do. Pray God's names when you wake in the middle of the night Call on the name of the Lord for help in the midst of difficulty.

1 Kings 8:41-49 Deut 28:9-10, John 17:6,11-12,20-21

Gen. 4:26 Matt. 6:9

Rev. 3:12

He who calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved Is. 50:10-11

Ps 89:16-17, Ps 91:14-15, Ps 119:132, Ps 20:7

to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place - unless you repent. Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolatans, which I also hate. He who upostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But, I have his against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming Revelation 2:1-7 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden ampstands, says this: 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves nas an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.""

Sach Judgment	desolate, God executes judgements God sends famine, wild beasts, plague, blood- vrath, and raging rebukes 5:14-15	"Moreover, I will send on you famine and wild beasts, and they will bereave you of children; plague and bloodshed also will pass through you, and I will bring the sword on you. I, the LORD, have spoken." -pictures God as an attacking archer shooting his destructive arrows against Israel/Jerusalem. These arrows included famine, wild beasts, plague, the sword - calamities uniquely associated with divine judgment on God's disobedient nation
"I, the LORD, have spoken" - the Divine Source of Each Judgment	God makes desolate, God executes judgements in anger, wrath, and raging rebukes 5:14-15	"Moreover, I will make you a desolation and a reproach among the nations which surround you, in the sight of all who pass by. 'So it will be a reproach, a reviling, a warning and an object of horror to the nations who surround you, when I execute judgments against you in anger, wrath, and raging rebukes. I, the LORD, have spoken." - stressed the humiliation Jerusalem would feel b/c of God's judgment - other nations would reproach and mock her other nations would reproach and mock her those rediculing nations would be horrified at what was happening to Jerusalem. Such carnage in the city would serve as a warning to them
"I, the LOR	God's anger will be spent, His wrath will be satisfied, and He shall be appeased - 5:13	"One third of you will die by plague or be consumed by famine among you, one third will fall by the sword around you, and one third I will scatter to every wind, and I will unsheathe a sword behind them. Thus My anger will be spent, and I will satisfy My wrath on them, and I shall be appeased: then they will know that I, the LORD, have spoken." God's judgment would cease/ subside only after He had poured out His wrath on them

Four One-Act Plays

ne Hair	center of the city mpleted Il around the city				
Act 4-Some Hair	1/3 burn in fire at the center of the city when days of siege completed 1/3 strike with sword all around the city	1/3 scatter to the wind			
Act 3-Meager Rations	bread - leftovers of several different grains - all individually usually in abundance - daily ration approxi- mately 1/3 loaf of bread	water - $1/6$ hin = $2/3$ qt. of water < 3 cups water per day			
Act 2-Laying on the Right & Left Sides	on L side head towards Jerusalem facing the Northern Kingdom lay on L side 390 days re sin	on R side head towards Jerusalem facing the Southern Kingdom lay on R side 40 days re sin			
Act 1-A Brick	place before you inscribe a city on it, Jerusalem lav siege against it	build a siege ramp pitch camps place battering rams against it all around	get an iron plate set iron plate between you and the city	set your face toward the city s.t. it is under siege	besiege the city