

1 Samuel 30:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

Analysis

The description of collective grief, 'lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep,' expresses exhaustion through mourning. The Hebrew 'ad asher en bahem koach livekot' (until there was no strength in them to weep) captures the physical depletion of intense grief. David shares this mourning equally with his men, not standing apart as leader but participating in the community's devastation. Even future kings must grieve their losses fully.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern mourning was demonstrative and communal. Loud weeping, tearing clothes, and other physical expressions of grief were culturally expected responses to loss. The communal nature of this mourning reflects the shared trauma.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you process grief to the point of exhaustion?
2. What role does shared mourning play in processing collective trauma?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשָּׂא	דָּוִד	וְהָעָם	אֲשֶׁר	אֶת	אֶת	
that were with him lifted up	Then David	and the people	H834	H854	H853	
H5375	H1732	H5971				
קוֹלָם	לְבָבוֹת:	עַד	אֲשֶׁר	אֵין	בָּהֶם	כֹּחַ
their voice	and wept	H5704	H834	H369	H0	until they had no more power
H6963	H1058					H3581
לְבָבוֹת:						
and wept						
H1058						

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 14:39 (Parallel theme): And Moses told these sayings unto all the children of Israel: and the people mourned greatly.

Numbers 14:1 (Parallel theme): And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.