

Daniel 7:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

Analysis

Daniel's response to the vision—"I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me"—reveals the emotional and spiritual impact of prophetic revelation. The Hebrew construction emphasizes internal distress affecting his entire being. Far from casual curiosity, Daniel experiences deep anguish over the revealed future, particularly the persecution of God's people and the blasphemous opposition represented by the little horn.

This grief demonstrates proper prophetic response: genuine revelation produces burden, not entertainment. Daniel understands that these visions concern real suffering for real people—his distress shows pastoral heart for God's people who will endure these trials. This contrasts with speculative prophecy interpretation that treats eschatology as intellectual puzzle rather than concerning the church's suffering and Christ's glory.

The phrase "in the midst of my body" (literally "in the sheath of my body") uses imagery of a sword in its sheath, suggesting his spirit strains within bodily constraints. This points to the tension believers experience: possessing spiritual insight into divine purposes while living in fallen bodies amid this present evil age. It anticipates Paul's groaning for redemption (Romans 8:23) and John's "Even so, come Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20). Christ understands this grief, having wept over Jerusalem and agonized in Gethsemane.

Historical Context

Daniel received this vision during Belshazzar's first year (553 BC), decades after his own exile began. Now elderly, he had witnessed Babylon's rise and was approaching its fall. The vision revealed that suffering would continue far beyond Babylon through successive empires—a sobering prospect for one hoping Israel's restoration would end tribulation. His grief reflects realization that God's people would endure centuries more persecution before final deliverance.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Daniel's grief over prophetic revelation challenge treating eschatology as intellectual puzzle rather than concerning real suffering and glory?
2. What does the "sword in sheath" imagery teach about the tension between spiritual insight and bodily existence in this present age?
3. How should prophetic study produce pastoral burden for suffering believers rather than speculative entertainment?

Interlinear Text

אֶתְפַּכִּי ת	רוּחִי י	אֲנִי ה	דָּנִי אֵל	בְּגֹ	נִדְנָה
was grieved	in my spirit	I	Daniel	in the midst	of my body
H3735	H7308	H576	H1841	H1459	H5085
וְחִזְוֵי	רֹאשִׁי י	יְבֵלְלֵנִי:			
and the visions	of my head	troubled			
H2376	H7217	H927			

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 7:28 (Parallel theme): Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

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