

Ezekiel 24:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And your tires shall be upon your heads, and your shoes upon your feet: ye shall not mourn nor weep; but ye shall pine away for your iniquities, and mourn one toward another.

Analysis

And your tires shall be upon your heads, and your shoes upon your feet— They would not remove their headwear (פְּאֵרֶקֶם, pē'érēkem, 'turbans/head-dresses') or shoes, customary mourning gestures. **Ye shall not mourn nor weep; but ye shall pine away for your iniquities, and mourn one toward another—** Instead of outward mourning, they would נָמָקָקָע (nāmaqqū, 'waste away/rot') inwardly, consumed by guilt. The verb suggests gradual decay, spiritual and emotional disintegration.

This describes a worse state than open grief: the paralysis of knowing judgment was deserved, that their own sins destroyed Jerusalem. מְעַנְּהַמְתָּמָם (ûněhamtem, 'and groan') (אִישׁ אֶל-אֶחָיו ('îsh 'el-'âhîw, 'each to his brother')—private groaning between individuals, not corporate mourning. Their guilt would isolate them even from communal grief, each man alone with his deserved punishment.

Historical Context

This prophecy materialized in 586 BC when Jerusalem fell. The book of Lamentations records this stunned, guilty grief: 'The LORD hath done that which he devised...he hath thrown down in his wrath' (Lamentations 2:17). Unlike normal tragedies blamed on fate, this was recognized as deserved covenant judgment.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between mourning a tragedy and mourning deserved consequences?
2. How can recognition of our own sin in judgment lead to repentance rather than despair?
3. When has conviction of sin 'wasted away' your spirit before restoration came?

Interlinear Text

ל א בְּגַלְּיכֶם וְפִאַרְכֶּם עַל רְאֵשֵׁיכֶם וְנַעֲלִיכֶם
And your tires H5921 shall be upon your heads H7218 and your shoes H5275 upon your feet H3808
H6287 H7272

בְּעֻזֹּן תִּיכְמַה וְנַמְקַתָּם תְּבַכֵּן וְלֹא תִּסְפֹּד
ye shall not mourn H5594 nor weep H3808 but ye shall pine away H4743 for your iniquities H5771
H1058

אַל אֵשׁ וְנַהֲמַתָּם
and mourn H5098 one H376 toward another H413 H251

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 4:17 (Parallel theme): That they may want bread and water, and be astonished one with another, and consume away for their iniquity.

Ezekiel 33:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live?

Leviticus 26:39 (Parallel theme): And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they pine away with them.

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