

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 (פְּעִירֵיכֶם, pě'ērêkem, '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 נִמְאָקוּ (nāmaqqu, '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. וְנִחְנָחֵם (ûnēhamtem, 'and groan') שִׁשׁ לְאָחִיו ('ish 'el-'āhîw, '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

וּפְאַרְכֶּם	עַל	רִאשֵׁיכֶם	וְנַעֲלֵיכֶם	בְּרַגְלֵיכֶם	לֹא
And your tires	H5921	shall be upon your heads	and your shoes	upon your feet	H3808
H6287		H7218	H5275	H7272	
תִּסְפֹּדוּ	וְלֹא	תִבְכּוּ	וְנִמְקֶתֶם	בְּעוֹן תִּיכֶם	
ye shall not mourn	H3808	nor weep	but ye shall pine away	for your iniquities	
H5594		H1058	H4743	H5771	
וְנִהְיֶתֶם	אֶחָד	אֶל	אֶחָיו:		
and mourn	one	H413	toward another		
H5098	H376		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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