

Isaiah 38:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the residue of my years.

Analysis

Hezekiah's lament "I said in the cutting off of my days" uses "cutting off" (Hebrew *damah*) suggesting premature death. The phrase "gates of the grave" (*sheol*) personifies death as a walled city with entrance gates—once entered, no exit exists. "I am deprived of the residue of my years" expresses grief over unfulfilled life expectancy. This honest expression of distress models that believers can voice disappointment to God about apparent injustice while still trusting Him.

Historical Context

Sheol in Old Testament thought was the shadowy realm of the dead, separated from the living and from vibrant relationship with God (Psalm 6:5).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How can we honestly express grief and disappointment to God while maintaining faith?

2. What does premature death represent as loss, particularly in Old Testament perspective?
3. How do we process the pain of apparently unfulfilled potential and shortened life?

Interlinear Text

אֲנִי	אָמַרְתִּי	בְּדַמִּי	יָמֵי	אֵל כֹּה	בְּשַׁעַר י
H589	I said	in the cutting off	of my days	H1980	to the gates
	H559	H1824	H3117		H8179
וְלֹא	פָּקַדְתִּי	יְתֵר	שְׁנוֹתַי:		
of the grave	I am deprived	of the residue	of my years		
H7585	H6485	H3499	H8141		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 102:24 (Parallel theme): I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: thy years are throughout all generations.

2 Corinthians 1:9 (Parallel theme): But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

Psalms 107:18 (Parallel theme): Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death.

Job 7:7 (Parallel theme): O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good.