

Isaiah 38:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I reckoned till morning, that, as a lion, so will he break all my bones: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me.

Analysis

The vivid complaint "I reckoned till morning, that, as a lion, so will he break all my bones" depicts sleepless agony through the night. Comparing God to a lion destroying prey is startling imagery showing the intensity of suffering's felt experience. The repetition "from day even unto night wilt thou make an end of me" emphasizes relentless progression toward death. This raw honesty about experiencing God as adversary during suffering parallels Job's complaints, modeling that faith can include brutal honesty about pain.

Historical Context

Lion imagery for destructive force was common in ancient Near East. The metaphor communicated overwhelming, inescapable power crushing its victim.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How can we maintain faith while honestly acknowledging times when God feels like an adversary?

2. What does Hezekiah's raw honesty teach about authentic prayer and lament?
3. How do we process suffering that seems directly caused by God rather than merely permitted?

Interlinear Text

כַּל	יִשְׁבֶּרֶגֶת	שׁוֹיְתִּי	עַד	בְּקָרִים	כִּאֵרִים	עַד	בְּקָרִים	שׁוֹיְתִּי
I reckoned	H5704	till morning	that as a lion	H3651	so will he break	H3605		
H7737		H1242		H738			H7665	
all my bones	from day	H5704	even to night	wilt thou make an end				
H6106		H3117		H3915			H7999	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 51:8 (Parallel theme): Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Daniel 6:24 (Parallel theme): And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.