

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

כָּל	יִשְׁבֵּר	כִּי	כְּאַרְיֵה	בִּקְרֹן	עַד	שָׁוִי יִתִּי
H3605	H7665	H3651	H738	H1242	H5704	H7737
	so will he break	that as a lion	till morning	I reckoned		
תִּשְׁלִימָנִי׃	לַיְלָה	עַד	מִיּוֹם	עַצְמוֹתַי		
H7999	H3915	H5704	H3117	H6106		
wilt thou make an end	even to night	from day	all my bones			

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.