

Isaiah 38:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What shall I say? he hath both spoken unto me, and himself hath done it: I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul.

Analysis

The question "What shall I say?" acknowledges inability to adequately respond to God's intervention. "He hath both spoken unto me, and himself hath done it" recognizes God's promise and its fulfillment—word and deed align perfectly. The resolution "I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul" describes humble, chastened living. "Go softly" (Hebrew dadah) suggests careful, reverent walking. This demonstrates that deliverance produces ongoing humility, not presumption. The phrase "bitterness of my soul" suggests the suffering left a permanent mark.

Historical Context

Near-death experiences often produced lasting changes in perspective and behavior. Hezekiah's suffering taught lessons that would shape his remaining years.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does experiencing God's deliverance produce ongoing humility and reverence?
2. What does it mean to "go softly" through life after dramatic intervention?
3. How can suffering's "bitterness" become a teacher that improves our walk with God?

Interlinear Text

מָה אָדַבְ רַ אָמַר יְהִי וְאַל־

H4100 What shall I say H1696 H559 H0 H1931

unto me and himself hath done

נָשַׁחַת הָ אָדַבְ הַ

עַל שְׁנָוֹת הַ כָּל

it I shall go softly all my years

H3605 H8141 H5921

H6213 H1718

בְּקַפְשֵׁי רַ מְ

in the bitterness of my soul

H4751 H5315

Additional Cross-References

Job 7:11 (Parallel theme): Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

1 Kings 21:27 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly.

Job 10:1 (Parallel theme): My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.