

Isaiah 38:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit: so wilt thou recover me, and make me to live.

Analysis

The declaration "O Lord, by these things men live" recognizes that life itself depends on God's sustaining power, not merely physical processes. The phrase "in all these things is the life of my spirit" shows that spiritual vitality comes from the same source as physical life. The prayer "so wilt thou recover me, and make me to live" asks for comprehensive restoration—both body and spirit. This holistic view sees physical health and spiritual life as interconnected, both flowing from God.

Historical Context

Hebrew thought didn't sharply distinguish physical and spiritual realms. Life was unified, with God as source of all vitality and wellbeing.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God as source of all life affect our view of health and existence?

2. What does the connection between physical and spiritual life teach about holistic faith?
3. How should dependence on God for every breath shape our daily gratitude and worship?

Interlinear Text

בָּהִנְנִי וְלֹכֶל אָדָן מִלְּאַלְפָּה

O Lord

H5921

H136

by these things men live

H2421

בָּהִנְנִי וְלֹכֶל

H3605

H2004

רֹוחַ נִי וְמַלְּיָם

and in all these things is the life of my spirit so wilt thou recover

H2416

H7307

H2492

וְמַחְנֵנִי

by these things men live

H2421

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 11:32 (References Lord): But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

Deuteronomy 8:3 (References Lord): And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.