

Isaiah 42:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself: now will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once.

Analysis

God's long silence ('been still' and 'refrained myself') has been deliberate patience, but now He will act like a woman in labor—crying out and panting. This striking feminine imagery conveys the intensity and inevitability of coming judgment/deliverance. What has been gestating must now be born.

Historical Context

God's apparent inactivity during the long exile tested faith. This assures that silence wasn't abandonment but patient waiting for the appointed time. When God acts, it will be with explosive, irresistible force.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you interpret God's silence in your life—as absence or as patient timing?

2. What does the birthing imagery teach about the intensity of God's coming actions?

Interlinear Text

הַחֵשׁ יִתֵּי	מְעוֹלָם	אַחֲרֵי יֵשׁ	אֶתְאַפֵּק	
holden my peace	I have long time	I have been still	and refrained	
H2814	H5769	H2790	H662	
כִּיּוֹלֵדָה	אֶפְעֶה	אֲשֶׁם	וְאֶשְׂאָרְךָ	יָחַד:
like a travailing woman	myself now will I cry	I will destroy	and devour	at once
H3205	H6463	H5395	H7602	H3162

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