

Isaiah 42:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid it not to heart.

Analysis

God poured fury of anger and violence of war upon Israel, yet 'he knew not'—they didn't understand—and though it burned, 'yet he laid it not to heart.' The Hebrew 'sum lev' (lay to heart) means taking seriously, learning lessons. Suffering without spiritual perception produces no benefit.

Historical Context

Despite the devastating judgment of exile, many Israelites failed to recognize it as divine discipline or respond with repentance. External suffering alone doesn't produce spiritual transformation without understanding.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What sufferings have you experienced without learning their intended spiritual lessons?

2. How can you move from merely enduring hardship to laying it to heart and learning?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁפֹּךְ ה'	עָלָיו	חֲמָה	אֶפְרוֹ	וְעֹז וז
Therefore he hath poured	H5921	upon him the fury	of his anger	and the strength
H8210		H2534	H639	H5807
מִלְחָמָה ה'	וַתִּלְהָט הו'	מִסָּבִיב	וְלֹא	יָדַע
of battle	and it hath set him on fire	round about	H3808	yet he knew
H4421	H3857	H5439		H3045
וְתִבְעַר	וְלֹא ב' ו'	יָשָׁא ים	עַל	לֵב:
not and it burned	H0	H3808	H5921	it not to heart
H1197		H7760		H3820

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 57:11 (Parallel theme): And of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied, and hast not remembered me, nor laid it to thy heart? have not I held my peace even of old, and thou fearest me not?

Hosea 7:9 (Parallel theme): Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not.

Isaiah 57:1 (Parallel theme): The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.

Malachi 2:2 (Parallel theme): If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

2 Kings 25:9 (Parallel theme): And he burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire.

