

Isaiah 59:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.

Analysis

Two animals portray their distress: 'We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves.' The bear's roar expresses frustrated anger; the dove's mourning expresses grief. 'We look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.' Both rage and sorrow characterize their condition.

Historical Context

Bears were found in Palestine's forests; doves were common. The combination of fierce roaring and gentle mourning captures the complex emotions of those experiencing judgment's consequences.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do anger and grief intertwine in response to sin's consequences?
2. What does longing for salvation that seems 'far off' feel like?

Interlinear Text

נָהָם הַ	כְּדִבִּים	כָּל נֹוֹ	וְכִיּוֹנֹת יָם	נָהָג הַ	נָהָג הַ	נִקְלוּ הַ
We roar	all like bears	H3605	like doves	and mourn	and mourn	we look
H1993	H1677		H3123	H1897	H1897	H6960
לְמִשְׁפָּט	וְאֵין	לִישׁוּעַ הַ	רֶחֶק הַ	מִמָּוֶה:		
for judgment	H369	but there is none for salvation	but it is far off	H4480		
H4941		H3444	H7368			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 38:14 (Parallel theme): Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O LORD, I am oppressed; undertake for me.

Ezekiel 7:16 (Parallel theme): But they that escape of them shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, every one for his iniquity.