

Isaiah 63:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?

Analysis

'Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?' The prayer intensifies into direct appeal. 'Where is' introduces longing questions. God's 'bowels' (me'im - internal organs) represent deep emotional compassion. Are mercies 'restrained' (apaq - held back)?

Historical Context

This bold prayer challenges divine apparent inactivity. The anatomical language (bowels, zeal) emphasizes visceral, emotional divine engagement that seems absent.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you pray when God seems to have restrained His mercies?
2. What does 'the sounding of thy bowels' teach about God's compassion?

Interlinear Text

וְנִרְאָה	מִשְׁמָן	יְמִין	וְרָאָה	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	לְמִזְבֵּחַ	קָדוֹשׁ
Look down	from heaven		and behold	from the habitation	of thy holiness	
H5027	H8064		H7200	H2073		H6944
בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	וְגַם	וְרָאָתָתָךְ	אֵי הַזְּנוּאָתָבָן	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	וְגַם	וְתִפְאַרְתָּךְ
and of thy glory	H346		where is thy zeal		and thy strength	the sounding
H8597			H7068		H1369	H1995
מִבְּבָנָתֶךָ	וְבְּבָנָתֶךָ	וְבְּבָנָתֶךָ	וְבְּבָנָתֶךָ	וְבְּבָנָתֶךָ	וְבְּבָנָתֶךָ	וְבְּבָנָתֶךָ
of thy bowels	and of thy mercies		אֵל			הַתְּאַפְּלָנָה
H4578	H7356		H413			H662
וְבָנָתֶךָ	וְבָנָתֶךָ	וְבָנָתֶךָ	וְבָנָתֶךָ	וְבָנָתֶךָ	וְבָנָתֶךָ	וְבָנָתֶךָ

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 31:20 (Parallel theme): Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD.

Deuteronomy 26:15 (Holy): Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven, and bless thy people Israel, and the land which thou hast given us, as thou swarest unto our fathers, a land that floweth with milk and honey.

Psalms 80:14 (Parallel theme): Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine;

Psalms 123:1 (Parallel theme): Unto thee lift I up mine eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens.

Hosea 11:8 (Parallel theme): How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together.

Psalms 33:14 (Parallel theme): From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

1 John 3:17 (Parallel theme): But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

Philippians 2:1 (Parallel theme): If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

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