

Isaiah 64:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wilt thou refrain thyself for these things, O LORD? wilt thou hold thy peace, and afflict us very sore?

Analysis

'Wilt thou refrain thyself for these things, O LORD? wilt thou hold thy peace, and afflict us very sore?' The prayer concludes with bold questioning: Will God 'refrain' (aphaq - restrain, hold back) given such devastation? Will He remain silent while affliction continues? The Hebrew 'anah ad-me'od' (afflict very sore) challenges divine passivity. This is bold, honest prayer.

Historical Context

The prayer ends with questions, not answers. This reflects authentic spiritual experience where resolution doesn't immediately follow confession. The silence of chapter 65's opening continues the tension.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Is it appropriate to boldly question God's apparent inactivity?
2. How do you sustain faith when prayers end with unanswered questions?

Interlinear Text

בָּעֵל	לֹה	אַ	תִּתְאַפֵּן	הִנֵּה
H5921	H428		Wilt thou refrain	thyself for these things O LORD
		H662		H3068
תִּתְחַנֵּשׁ	נָא	עֲזֵז	תִּתְעַבֵּן	עֲזֵז
wilt thou hold thy peace	and afflict	H5704	us very sore	
H2814	H6031			H3966

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 42:14 (Peace): 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.

Psalms 83:1 (Peace): Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God.

Zechariah 1:12 (References Lord): Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, O LORD of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years?