

Jeremiah 10:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Woe is me for my hurt! my wound is grievous: but I said, Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it.

Analysis

This verse voices lament: 'Woe is me for my hurt! my wound is grievous.' The Hebrew *oi-li* (אֹיְלִי, woe to me) is a cry of anguish; *makka* (מַקְהָ, wound, blow) indicates injury. The speaker may be Jeremiah, personified Jerusalem, or the community. 'But I said, Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it.' The Hebrew *choli* (חָלִי, sickness, grief) and *nasa* (נָשָׁא, bear, carry) express resigned acceptance of suffering. Unlike earlier complaints, this voice acknowledges the necessity of enduring judgment—recognition that the wound is deserved and must be borne.

Historical Context

This lament may represent exilic community's growing acceptance of their situation—moving from denial and protest to recognition that judgment must be endured. The theology of Lamentations similarly combines anguished protest with acknowledged justice. Jeremiah's counsel to exiles (chapter 29) encouraged acceptance and constructive living during the seventy-year sentence.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the acknowledgment 'I must bear it' represent growth from denial to acceptance of divine discipline?
2. What role does accepting deserved consequences play in the restoration process?

Interlinear Text

אֵם רָתִי תֹּאכֵל מְקַטֵּת עַל לִי שְׁבָר הַנְּחָל הַשְׁבָר מְקַטֵּת בָּאֵם
Woe H0 H5921 is me for my hurt is grievous my wound but I said
H188 H7667 H2470 H4347 H559

אֵשֶׁת אֵם רָתִי תֹּאכֵל מְקַטֵּת עַל לִי שְׁבָר הַנְּחָל הַשְׁבָר מְקַטֵּת בָּאֵם
Truly H2088 this is a grief and I must bear
H389 H2483 H5375

Additional Cross-References

Micah 7:9 (Parallel theme): I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

Psalms 39:9 (Parallel theme): I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because thou didst it.

Jeremiah 14:17 (Parallel theme): Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them; Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, with a very grievous blow.

Jeremiah 4:31 (Parallel theme): For I have heard a voice as of a woman in travail, and the anguish as of her that bringeth forth her first child, the voice of the daughter of Zion, that bewaileth herself, that spreadeth her hands, saying, Woe is me now! for my soul is wearied because of murderers.

