

Jeremiah 10:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

Analysis

This verse requests measured discipline: 'O LORD, correct me, but with judgment.' The Hebrew yasar (יִסַּר, correct, discipline, chasten) acknowledges the need for divine correction. 'With judgment' (bemishpat) means with justice, proportion, restraint—not in unbridled wrath. 'Not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.' The Hebrew aph (אַף, anger, nostril, wrath) if unleashed without restraint would annihilate. ma'at (מְאַת, diminish, bring to nothing) expresses fear of complete destruction. The prayer asks for disciplinary suffering proportioned to produce correction, not annihilating wrath that destroys entirely. It trusts God's justice to temper His anger.

Historical Context

This prayer reflects theological maturity—accepting judgment's necessity while pleading for mercy within it. Similar prayers appear in Psalms (6:1, 38:1) and form part of Israel's developing theology of suffering. The exile was severe but not annihilating; a remnant survived to return, suggesting God did indeed correct 'with judgment' rather than in consuming anger.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does asking for discipline 'with judgment' rather than 'in anger' reveal about understanding of divine character?
2. How does accepting necessary discipline while pleading for measured application demonstrate mature faith?

Interlinear Text

אַל תִּמְצָר מִנְחָתְךָ בְּאֶפְבָּךְ אַל בְּמִשְׁפָּט עֲלֵיכָם אַל תִּמְצָר מִנְחָתְךָ בְּאֶפְבָּךְ

correct **O LORD** H389 **me but with judgment** H408 **not in thine anger** H6435

H3256 H3068 H4941 H639

תִּמְצָרֵנִי

lest thou bring me to nothing

H4591

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 38:1 (Judgment): O LORD, rebuke me not in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

Psalms 6:1 (References Lord): O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

Jeremiah 30:11 (References Lord): For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished.

Isaiah 40:23 (Judgment): That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.

Job 6:18 (Parallel theme): The paths of their way are turned aside; they go to nothing, and perish.