

Jeremiah 15:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, which refuseth to be healed? wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar, and as waters that fail?

Analysis

Jeremiah describes his relationship to God's word: 'Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.' The metaphor 'I did eat them' depicts thorough internalization of Scripture (cf. Ezekiel 3:1-3; Revelation 10:9-10). Despite the harsh content of his prophetic message, God's word brought 'joy and rejoicing' to Jeremiah's heart. The reason: identity—'I am called by thy name.' Being identified with God brings joy even when the message brings persecution. This reflects the Reformed high view of Scripture as spiritually nourishing and joy-producing despite its often difficult content.

Historical Context

Jeremiah's ministry began when Josiah discovered the Book of the Law during temple renovation (2 Kings 22). The rediscovery of Scripture sparked reform and shaped Jeremiah's prophetic calling.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does 'eating' God's words teach about Scripture internalization?
2. How can God's word produce joy even when its content includes judgment and difficulty?
3. What is the relationship between being 'called by God's name' and finding joy in His word?

Interlinear Text

אָנוֹשׁ הַ	וּמַכְתִּי י	נֶצַח	כְּאַבִּי	הֵי הַ לְ מָה	
incurable	and my wound	perpetual	Why is my pain		
H605	H4347	H5331	H3511	H1961	H4100
כִּמּוֹ לִי	תְהִי הַ	הֵי וְ	הִכְפֵּי א	מֵאַנָּה	
			to be healed	which refuseth	
H3644	H0	H1961	H7495	H3985	
נֶאֱמָנוּ:	ל א	מִ יָם	אֶכְזָב		
that fail		and as waters	wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar		
H539	H3808	H4325	H391		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 30:15 (Parallel theme): Why criest thou for thine affliction? thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: because thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee.

Job 34:6 (Parallel theme): Should I lie against my right? my wound is incurable without transgression.

Micah 1:9 (Parallel theme): For her wound is incurable; for it is come unto Judah; he is come unto the gate of my people, even to Jerusalem.

Psalms 6:3 (Parallel theme): My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long?

Jeremiah 20:7 (Parallel theme): O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.

Jeremiah 14:3 (Parallel theme): And their nobles have sent their little ones to the waters: they came to the pits, and found no water; they returned with their vessels empty; they were ashamed and confounded, and covered their heads.

Jeremiah 14:19 (Parallel theme): Hast thou utterly rejected Judah? hath thy soul lothed Zion? why hast thou smitten us, and there is no healing for us? we looked for peace, and there is no good; and for the time of healing, and behold trouble!

Jeremiah 30:12 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the LORD, Thy bruise is incurable, and thy wound is grievous.