

Job 17:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Mine eye also is dim by reason of sorrow, and all my members are as a shadow.

Analysis

Mine eye also is dim by reason of sorrow (וַתִּכְהַח הַכֶּעָשׂ עֵינַי, vattekhah mikka'as eini)—Tekhah (grows dim/darkens) describes failing vision from grief or age. Ka'as (sorrow/grief/vexation) is emotional and physical anguish. Job's suffering has literal physiological effects, contradicting his friends' assumption that only the wicked suffer visibly.

And all my members are as a shadow (וְיִצְרַי כַּצֵּל כָּלִם, viytsurai khatsel kullam)—Yetsurai (my members/forms/frame) refers to Job's bodily parts. Khatsel (as a shadow) evokes Psalm 102:11 and 144:4—human life's brevity and fragility. Job describes his body wasting to nothing, becoming insubstantial as a passing shadow.

Historical Context

Ancient physiology understood tight connections between emotional and physical health (compare Proverbs 17:22, 'a broken spirit drieth the bones'). Job's description isn't metaphorical but literal—prolonged grief and suffering were destroying his body, validating his complaints against friends who insisted he must be secretly sinful.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing suffering's physical toll change how we minister to the grieving?
2. What comfort can faith offer when our bodies fail and become 'as a shadow'?
3. In what ways do modern Christians sometimes deny or minimize the legitimate physical effects of emotional and spiritual suffering?

Interlinear Text

וְיָהּ כֹה	מִכֵּן עֵשׂ	עֵינִי י	וְיָצַר י	כַּצֵּל ל
also is dim	by reason of sorrow	Mine eye	and all my members	are as a shadow
H3543	H3708	H5869	H3338	H6738
כָּלִים:				
H3605				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 6:7 (Parallel theme): Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies.

Job 16:16 (Parallel theme): My face is foul with weeping, and on my eyelids is the shadow of death;