

Job 23:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even to day is my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning.

Analysis

Even to day is my complaint bitter (גַּם-הַיּוֹם מֵרִי שִׁיחַי, gam-hayyom meri sichi)—The word מֵרִי (meri) derives from מָרָה (marah, 'to be bitter/rebellious'), the same root as Marah, the bitter waters (Exodus 15:23). Job's שִׁיחַ (siach, 'complaint/meditation') remains מֵרִי—not sinfully rebellious but honestly bitter. The phrase **even to day** emphasizes ongoing suffering without relief.

My stroke is heavier than my groaning (כָּבֵד יָדִי עַל-אֲנָחָתִי)—literally 'my hand is heavy upon my groaning.' The Hebrew יָד (yad, 'hand') likely refers to God's hand afflicting Job, though some interpret it as Job's own hand unable to suppress groans. Either way, the כָּבֵד (kaved, 'heavy/weighty') burden exceeds his capacity to articulate—his suffering is literally unspeakable.

Historical Context

Ancient Israelite piety encouraged honest lament—the Psalms contain more lament than praise. Job's 'bitter complaint' stands in this tradition (Psalms 64:1, 142:2), modeling that faith can coexist with brutal honesty about suffering. This validates Christian lament as authentic worship, not weak faith.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Job's 'bitter complaint' challenge modern expectations that Christians should always project positivity?
2. What is the difference between Job's honest bitterness and sinful complaining against God's character?
3. When has your suffering been 'heavier than your groaning'—beyond your ability to express?

Interlinear Text

גַּם	הַ יּוֹם	מָרָה	שֹׁחַ	יָדִי	כִּבְדִּי	עַל
H1571	Even to day	bitter	is my complaint	my stroke	is heavier	H5921
	H3117	H4805	H7879	H3027	H3513	
אֲנִי־חָתִי:						
than my groaning						
H585						

Additional Cross-References

Job 10:1 (Parallel theme): My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.