

Job 29:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me;

Analysis

Job laments: 'Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me.' The phrase mi yitteneini (מִי יִתְנַצֵּן, Oh that) expresses longing. Yerachim qedem (רֵחֶם, months past) refers to former times. Shamar (שָׁמַר, preserved) means to keep, guard, or watch over. Job remembers when he experienced God's protective care. His lament isn't rebellion but honest grief over lost blessing. The passage validates that believers may mourn past blessings while maintaining faith—lament is legitimate expression of loss.

Historical Context

Job 29-31 forms Job's final defense before Elihu's speeches. These chapters recall Job's former prosperity (29), contrast it with present misery (30), and conclude with oath of innocence (31). Ancient Near Eastern laments frequently contrasted past blessing with present distress. Job's nostalgia for God's preservation demonstrates that his complaints target his situation's incomprehensibility, not God's character.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Job's longing for past blessing model appropriate grief without faithless complaining?
2. What is the difference between remembering past blessings with gratitude and nostalgia that breeds resentment?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁמְרֵנִי אֵל וְכֵן כִּי כִּי
H4310 Oh that I were as in months past as in the days when God preserved
H5414 H3391 H6924 H3117 H433 H8104

Additional Cross-References

Job 1:10 (Parallel theme): Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Jeremiah 31:28 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD.

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