Job 30:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now my soul is poured out upon me; the days of affliction have taken hold upon me.

Analysis

And now my soul is poured out upon me (וְעַהָּה עָלֵי תִּשְׁתַּפֶּךְ נַפְשִׁי)—The verb shapak (שְׁפַּרְ) means to pour out, spill, or shed—the same word for pouring out drink offerings or shedding blood. Nephesh (נְפֶשׁ) means soul, life, or inner being. Job's very self is liquefying, poured out like water. Hannah prayed 'I have poured out my soul before the LORD' (1 Samuel 1:15); the psalmist laments 'I am poured out like water' (Psalm 22:14). Christ's soul was 'poured out unto death' (Isaiah 53:12)—the ultimate identification with Job's suffering.

The days of affliction have taken hold upon me (יֹאַחֲזוּנִי יְמֵי־עֹנִי)—The verb achaz (תֹאַחֲזוּנִי יְמֵי־עֹנִי) means to seize, grasp, or take hold—affliction isn't passive but actively grips Job like an assailant. Oni (עֹנִי) means affliction, poverty, or misery. Days personified as attackers that won't release their grip—time itself has become Job's enemy.

Historical Context

The 'pouring out' metaphor had ritual significance in ancient Israel. Libations were poured out to God; blood was poured at the altar's base (Leviticus 4:7). Job inverts this—instead of offering poured out in worship, his very being drains away uncontrollably. This verse marks transition from external attacks (verses 8-15) to internal devastation (verses 16-18). Ancient Near Eastern lament literature similarly moved from describing enemies to expressing internal anguish. Job's 'days of affliction' echoes the 'day of trouble' motif throughout Psalms (Psalm 20:1, 50:15).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

- 1. What does it mean to have your soul 'poured out'? How do we maintain identity when suffering drains our sense of self?
- 2. How does Job's description of unrelenting days of affliction validate chronic sufferers whose pain doesn't resolve?
- 3. In what ways did Christ's soul being 'poured out unto death' redeem Job's (and our) experience of being poured out in suffering?

Interlinear Text



Additional Cross-References

Psalms 22:14 (Parallel theme): I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

Psalms 42:4 (Parallel theme): When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.

Isaiah 53:12 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul

unto	death:	and	he	was	numbe	ered	with	the	trans	gress	ors;	and	he	bare	the	sin	of
many, and made intercession for the transgressors.																	

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