

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 (וַעֲתָה עָלַי תִּשָּׁתַּךְ נַפְשִׁי)—The verb shapak (שָׁפַךְ) means to pour out, spill, or shed—the same word for pouring out drink offerings or shedding blood. Nephesh (נַפֶּשׁ) 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 (יָמֵי-עָנִי וְיָמֵי-צָרָה)—The verb achaz (אָחַז) means to seize, grasp, or take hold—affliction isn't passive but actively grips Job like an assailant. Oni (עָנִי) 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).

unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

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