

Job 30:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My bones are pierced in me in the night season: and my sinews take no rest.

Analysis

My bones are pierced in me in the night season—(לִלְתָה עֲצָמִי נִקְרַת מַעַלְתִי) The verb naqar (נִקְרַת) means to pierce, bore through, or dig out; atsam (עֲצָמָה) means bones, the body's structural framework. Job's skeletal system—what gives him shape and support—is being hollowed out, pierced through. Night intensifies suffering when darkness amplifies pain and prevents distraction. The psalmist echoes this: 'my bones are vexed' (Psalm 6:2); Christ's bones were 'out of joint' on the cross (Psalm 22:14).

My sinews take no rest—(וְעַרְקֵי לֹא יִשְׁכְּבָו) Araq (עַרְקֵי) means sinews, gnawing pains, or possibly arteries; shakav (שִׁכְבָּה) means to lie down or rest. Job's connective tissues, the ligaments and tendons binding his bones, won't be still—constant pain prevents sleep. This describes neuropathic or inflammatory pain that worsens at night. Job's suffering is comprehensive: bones (structure), sinews (connection), day and night (time)—no respite exists.

Historical Context

Ancient medicine had limited understanding of internal pain mechanisms but recognized that night intensified suffering. Darkness brought isolation, prevented activity that might distract from pain, and triggered psychological dread. Job's description matches symptoms of severe inflammatory conditions—possibly the 'sore boils' mentioned in 2:7. Ancient Near Eastern medical texts from Egypt and Mesopotamia describe similar bone and joint pains, often attributed to divine or

demonic causes. That Job's suffering peaks at night aligns with ancient observations about disease patterns.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does chronic physical pain affect spiritual life? What resources sustain faith when the body is under constant assault?
2. Why does suffering often feel worse at night? How can nighttime become a space for meeting God rather than drowning in pain?
3. How does Job's description of bones being pierced foreshadow Christ's crucifixion and validate physical suffering as real spiritual trial?

Interlinear Text

ל א ! עירק י מעל י נק ר ע צמי ל אלה	in me in the night season	My bones	are pierced	H5921	and my sinews	H3808
H3915	H6106	H5365			H6207	

ישכון
take no rest

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 38:13 (Parallel theme): I reckoned till morning, that, as a lion, so will he break all my bones: from day even to night wilt thou make an end of me.