

# Job 30:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My bowels boiled, and rested not: the days of affliction prevented me.

## Analysis

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**My bowels boiled, and rested not** (מַעַי רוֹתָחוּ וְלֹא דָמְמוּ, me'ay rutachu velo-dammu) —The noun me'im (מַעַי, bowels/intestines) represents the seat of emotions in Hebrew anthropology. The verb ratach (רָתַח) means "to boil, seethe" (Ezekiel 24:5), conveying intense inner turmoil. The negative lo dammu ("did not rest") uses damah (דָּמָה, to be still, silent). Job experiences relentless internal anguish. The phrase **the days of affliction prevented me** (קָדְמָי יְמֵי-עָנִי) uses qadam (קָדַם, "to come before, meet, confront"). Suffering arrived before Job could prepare.

This visceral language captures embodied suffering—not merely mental anguish but physical manifestation of grief. Lamentations 2:11 uses similar imagery: "my liver is poured upon the earth." Job's suffering is total: spiritual, emotional, physical. This anticipates Christ's Gethsemane: "My soul is exceeding sorrowful" (Mark 14:34), and His cry of dereliction. The Incarnation means God knows suffering from within, not merely as external observer.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Israelite psychology was holistic, not dualistic. Emotions resided in physical organs: heart (thought/will), kidneys (conscience), bowels (compassion/anguish). "Boiling bowels" wasn't metaphor but literal physiological experience of grief. Modern psychology recognizes psychosomatic suffering. Job's description predates but validates embodied cognition—emotions and body are inseparable.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing the physical reality of emotional suffering affect pastoral care?
2. What does Job's holistic suffering teach about the nature of human personhood?
3. How does Christ's bodily suffering (Isaiah 53:3-5) sanctify our physical pain?

## Interlinear Text

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יִמְעֵי	וּרְתַחֵ	וְלֹא	דָּמוּ	קִדְמָנִי	יָמִי	עֲנִי:
<b>My bowels</b>	<b>boiled</b>	<b>H3808</b>	<b>and rested</b>	<b>prevented</b>	<b>not the days</b>	<b>of affliction</b>
H4578	H7570		H1826	H6923	H3117	H6040

## Additional Cross-References

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**Lamentations 2:11** (Parallel theme): Mine eyes do fail with tears, my bowels are troubled, my liver is poured upon the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people; because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city.