

Job 30:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I went mourning without the sun: I stood up, and I cried in the congregation.

Analysis

I went mourning without the sun (קָדָר הַלְּקָתִי בְּלֹא שָׁמֶן, qoder hilakhti belo chammah)—The adjective qoder (קָדָר) means "dark, blackened, mourning" (used of sackcloth in Psalm 35:14). The phrase "without the sun" means not from solar deprivation but inner darkness—mourning unrelated to external circumstances. The verb halakh (הַלָּךְ, "to walk") indicates continuous lifestyle. Job's mourning is his constant state. The phrase **I stood up, and I cried in the congregation** (קָתָתִי בְּקָבְדָל אֲשִׁיעָה) uses shava' (שָׁוָעַ, "to cry for help"). Job publicly laments, not suffering in silence.

This public lament distinguishes biblical piety from stoicism. Lament is worship (Psalms 13, 22, 88). Job refuses to pretend—he brings raw suffering into community. This foreshadows Christ's public agony (John 11:35, Hebrews 5:7, "loud crying and tears"). The gospel validates emotional honesty: we need not hide suffering to maintain spirituality. Lament is faith's cry when praise seems impossible.

Historical Context

Ancient Israelite worship included public lament. The temple had professional mourners (Jeremiah 9:17). Communal fasting and prayer addressed corporate and individual crisis (Joel 1-2). Job's public crying wasn't cultural violation but appropriate religious expression. Contrast Greek philosophy's emphasis on

emotional control (Stoicism). Biblical faith permits—even requires—honest expression of suffering before God and community.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How can modern churches recover the practice of communal lament?
2. What is the difference between complaining and biblical lament?
3. How does Job's example give permission for emotional honesty in worship?

Interlinear Text

בְּקָרְבָּן לְמִתְּחִילָה קָרַב רְקִיעָה כְּלָמָד הַלְּכָתִי בְּלֹא הַלְּכָתִי
mourning I went without the sun I stood up in the congregation
H6937 H1980 H2535 H6965 H6951

אֲשַׁעַן:

and I cried

H7768

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 42:9 (Parallel theme): I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

Psalms 43:2 (Parallel theme): For thou art the God of my strength: why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

Psalms 38:6 (Parallel theme): I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.

Job 19:7 (Parallel theme): Behold, I cry out of wrong, but I am not heard: I cry aloud, but there is no judgment.

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