

Job 33:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He is chastened also with pain upon his bed, and the multitude of his bones with strong pain:

Analysis

He is chastened also with pain upon his bed (wenôkaḥ bemak'ôḥ 'al-miškāḇô, וְנוֹכַח בְּמַכְאוֹב עַל-מִשְׁכָּבוֹ)—The verb yākaḥ (here in passive nōkaḥ) means to correct, reprove, or discipline, the same root used for the Spirit's convicting work (John 16:8, Greek elenchō). Physical mak'ôḥ (pain, suffering) becomes God's pedagogy. The bed (miškāḇ), normally a place of rest, transforms into a classroom for divine instruction. Pain immobilizes, forcing attention on eternal realities obscured by health and activity.

And the multitude of his bones with strong pain (werîḥ 'ašāmāyw 'êṭān, וְרִיב אֶשְׁמָאֵי עִתָּן)—Rîḥ (strife, contention, multitude) suggests bones engaged in constant protest. 'Êṭān (strong, enduring, perpetual) describes unrelenting chronic pain that pervades skeletal structure. This graphic description of suffering matches Job's own condition (7:4-5, 30:17). Elihu recognizes that bone-deep, inescapable pain becomes the crucible where God refines character and exposes dependence.

Historical Context

Ancient medicine lacked analgesics and antibiotics, making chronic pain an inescapable teacher. Bone diseases, arthritis, and infections produced 'strong pain' that could not be medicated away. Elihu's theology transforms this common suffering into purposeful divine discipline. The wisdom literature frequently uses physical affliction as metaphor for spiritual condition (Psalm 32:3-4, Proverbs 3:11-12).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does chronic physical suffering force attention on spiritual realities that health and comfort allow you to ignore?
2. In what ways does unrelenting pain function as 'chastening' that teaches dependence on God?
3. How can you view your own or others' suffering through the lens of divine pedagogy rather than mere misfortune?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה חַ	בְּ מַכְאוֹב	עַל	מִשְׁכָּב וְ	וְרֵיב	עַצְמוֹ יוֹ
He is chastened	also with pain	H5921	upon his bed	and the multitude	of his bones
H3198	H4341		H4904	H7230	H6106

אַתָּן:
with strong
H386

Additional Cross-References

Job 30:17 (Parallel theme): My bones are pierced in me in the night season: and my sinews take no rest.

Psalms 119:71 (Parallel theme): It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

1 Corinthians 11:32 (Parallel theme): But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

