

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 (wenôkah̄ bemak'ôb 'al-miškâbô, וְנִזְכָּחַ בְּמִשְׁכָּבְךָ—The verb yâkah̄ (here in passive nôkah̄) means to correct, reprove, or discipline, the same root used for the Spirit's convicting work (John 16:8, Greek elenchô). Physical mak'ôb (pain, suffering) becomes God's pedagogy. The bed (miškâb), 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 (werîb 'ašāmâyw 'êṭâan, וְרִבּ אֲשָׁמָאָיו עֶתְּאָן—Rîb (strife, contention, multitude) suggests bones engaged in constant protest. 'Êṭâan (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

נִצְמָת יְהֹוָה עַל מִשְׁכָּב וְעַל מִכְאֹב וְבִרְבּוֹת
He is chastened also with pain upon his bed and the multitude of his bones

H3198

H4341

H5921

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H7230

H6106

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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.

