

Job 6:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea:
therefore my words are swallowed up.

Analysis

Job acknowledges his words have been rash: 'For now it would be heavier than the sand of the sea: therefore my words are swallowed up.' The Hebrew 'tala' (swallow up/rash) admits his speech has been unrestrained. But Job defends this—his grief outweighs the sand of the sea, so passionate expression is proportionate to his suffering. This models honest acknowledgment of emotional speech while defending its legitimacy given the circumstances. Lament isn't sin, even when it's intense.

Historical Context

Weighing grief like sand demonstrates ancient Near Eastern mathematical thinking about measuring the immeasurable. Job's hyperbole (sand of the sea) emphasizes that his suffering exceeds normal human capacity to bear quietly.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do you balance acknowledgment that your words may be rash with defense of legitimate emotional expression?
2. What distinguishes rash but legitimate lament from sinful accusation against God?

Interlinear Text

כִּי עַל יְהוָה מִכָּל יָמָן תִּמְלָא וְעַתָּה
H3588 H6258 **than the sand** of the sea For now it would be heavier H5921 H3651
H2344 H3220 H3513

לְעֵינָה יְהִי דְבָרָךְ
therefore my words are swallowed up

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 27:3 (Parallel theme): A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both.

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