

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	עַתָּה	מֶחַ וְלֹ	יַם יָם	יִכְבֹּד	עַל	כִּי
H3588	H6258	than the sand	of the sea	For now it would be heavier	H5921	H3651
		H2344	H3220	H3513		
	דִּבְרִי	לָעוֹ:				
	therefore my words	are swallowed up				
	H1697	H3886				

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.