

Job 6:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Doth the wild ass bray when he hath grass? or loweth the ox over his fodder?

Analysis

Job asks rhetorical questions: 'Doth the wild ass bray when he hath grass? or loweth the ox over his fodder?' Animals only cry out when they lack necessities. Job's point: his complaints aren't groundless grumbling but legitimate response to genuine deprivation. The Hebrew 'na'aq' (bray) and 'ga'ah' (low) are animal cries of distress. Job implies his friends treat him like an animal complaining over nothing when in fact he's been stripped of everything that makes life bearable.

Historical Context

Animal behavior as metaphor for human responses appears throughout ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature. Job's comparison to distressed animals emphasizes the instinctive, involuntary nature of crying out in genuine suffering.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when others characterize your legitimate grief as mere complaining?

2. What does Job's animal metaphor teach us about the naturalness and appropriateness of crying out in suffering?

Interlinear Text

שׁ וּ יְגַעַת אָמֵן
the ox or loweth when he hath grass
H7794 H1600 H518
עַל בְּלִילָה
over his fodder
H1098 H5921

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