

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

בִּינָהּ	פֶּה רָא	עָלִי	דָּ שָׂא	אֵם	יִגְעָה	שׁוֹר
bray	Doth the wild ass	when he hath grass	or loweth	the ox		
H5101	H6501	H5921	H1877	H518	H1600	H7794
עַל	בְּלִילוֹ:					
H5921	over his fodder					
	H1098					

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