

Job 7:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When I say, My bed shall comfort me, my couch shall ease my complaint;

Analysis

Job seeks relief in sleep, hoping his bed will 'comfort' (nacham, נָחַם) him and his couch will 'ease' (nasa, נָסָא, literally 'bear' or 'carry') his complaint. The Hebrew verb nasa typically means to lift, carry, or bear away—Job hopes sleep will carry away his grievance. This reveals the human tendency to seek escape from suffering through unconsciousness or temporary relief rather than resolution.

The verse's poignancy intensifies knowing that Job's hope proves futile—the next verse reveals that even sleep brings no respite as God terrifies him with dreams and visions. This illustrates suffering's totalizing nature: it invades every domain, allowing no sanctuary. Neither waking nor sleeping provides escape. The Reformed understanding recognizes that true comfort comes not through circumstances but through God Himself (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

Job's longing for restful sleep points forward to Christ's invitation: 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28). The rest Job seeks in his bed finds ultimate fulfillment in the Sabbath rest awaiting God's people (Hebrews 4:9-11), where suffering finally ceases.

Historical Context

Ancient cultures recognized sleep as essential for physical and mental health. The Hebrew wisdom tradition valued peaceful sleep as divine gift (Psalm 4:8, Proverbs

3:24). Job's inability to find rest even in sleep marks his suffering as exceptional and comprehensive, touching every aspect of existence.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Where do we seek comfort when God seems to be the source of our distress?
2. How does Job's futile hope for relief through sleep warn against seeking escapism rather than genuine resolution?
3. In what ways does Christ provide the true rest that Job's bed could not deliver?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אָ מַרְתִּי	תִּנְחֵם נִי	עֲרֹשׂ י	יֵשׁ א	בְּ שִׁיחַ י	מִשְׁכְּבִי:
H3588	When I say	shall comfort	My bed	shall ease	my complaint	me my couch
	H559	H5162	H6210	H5375	H7879	H4904

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 6:6 (Parallel theme): I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears.