

Lamentations 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.

Analysis

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? (לוֹא אַלְיכֶם, lo aleikhem)—Jerusalem personified addresses indifferent passersby, a prophetic cry for recognition of her unprecedented suffering. **If there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow** claims the superlative nature of her grief. **Wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me** acknowledges divine agency in judgment—not merely Babylonian conquest, but covenant curses executed. This verse is often applied typologically to Christ's suffering (used in Good Friday liturgy), though its primary reference is Jerusalem's historical destruction. The Hebrew construction emphasizes that this affliction comes 'from YHWH'—covenant judgment, not arbitrary fate.

Historical Context

Reflects the actual horrors of the 18-month siege (589-586 BC): starvation, cannibalism (Lam 2:20; 4:10), mass executions, and temple desecration. Ancient Near Eastern custom was for travelers to pass ruined cities as object lessons, often without pity for those who had defied great powers.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does acknowledging that God Himself ordains affliction (rather than blaming circumstances) change the nature of suffering?
2. In what ways might your own suffering serve as a witness to others about the consequences of breaking covenant with God?

Interlinear Text

ל	וא	כל	אליכם	ע	ברִי	בְּ	יטו	דָּרָךְ
H3808	H413	H3605	Is it nothing to you all ye that pass	H5674		by	behold	
and see	H518	if there be	any sorrow	any sorrow	H834	which is done	H0	
H7200	H3426		H4341	H4341		H5953		
אָשָׁר	הָזֶה	הִנֵּה	בַּיּוֹם	בְּ	זַר			
H834	hath afflicted	unto me wherewith the LORD	me in the day	of his fierce				
	H3013		H3068	H3117		H2740		
אָפָּן								
anger								
H639								

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 9:12 (Parallel theme): And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 18:16 (Parallel theme): To make their land desolate, and a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head.

Jeremiah 30:24 (References Lord): The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it.

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