

Lamentations 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From above hath he sent fire into my bones, and it prevaleth against them: he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate and faint all the day.

Analysis

Divine judgment employs vivid metaphors: "From above hath he sent fire into my bones, and it prevaleth against them" (mi-marom shalach esh be-atsmotai vayirdena). Fire in bones suggests deep, penetrating pain—not superficial but affecting the core of one's being. Job 30:30 uses similar imagery: "my bones are burned with heat." The phrase "he hath spread a net for my feet" (paras reshet le-raglai) portrays God as hunter trapping prey. Psalm 66:11 and Ezekiel 12:13 employ net imagery for divine judgment. "He hath turned me back" (heshivani anchor) indicates frustrated attempts to escape—wherever one turns, the net confines. The result: "he hath made me desolate and faint all the day" (netanani shomemah kol ha-yom davah). The term shomem (שׁוֹמֵם, "desolate") describes utter devastation; davah (דָּוָה, "faint, sick") indicates complete physical and spiritual exhaustion. These cumulative images—fire in bones, trapped in net, turned back, desolate, faint—portray judgment's comprehensive, inescapable, debilitating nature.

Historical Context

The imagery would resonate with ancient audiences familiar with hunting practices. Nets were used to trap birds and animals; Proverbs 1:17 warns: "in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird." But God's net cannot be evaded through human cleverness. Fire was the primary force in ancient warfare—cities were burned (2 Kings 25:9), and fire symbolized God's wrath (Deuteronomy 32:22). The

phrase 'all the day' (kol ha-yom) emphasizes relentless suffering throughout the siege's duration. Each day brought fresh evidence of judgment's grip: hunger intensified, disease spread, enemy attacks continued, hope diminished. The cumulative effect produced the desolation and faintness described.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do these multiple metaphors (fire, net, desolation) help us grasp judgment's multi-faceted, inescapable nature?
2. What does it mean that God Himself spreads the net, and how does this relate to divine sovereignty over circumstances?
3. How can awareness of judgment's severity drive us to the refuge found only in Christ (Hebrews 6:18)?

Interlinear Text

וְמִמֶּרְךָ שָׁלֹחַ אֲשֶׁר בְּעָצְמָתِי וְאֵלֶּךָ נָהָר וּמִמֶּרְךָ
From above hath he sent fire into my bones and it prevaleth
H4791 H7971 H784 H6106 H7287

אֲחֵיךְ וּרְשֵׁבָנִי לְכַפְּלֵי רְשֵׁת שְׁפָת
against them he hath spread a net for my feet he hath turned me back
H6566 H7568 H7272 H7725 H268

כָּל יוֹם וְיָהִי נִתְּנֵנִי שְׁמַמְתִּי הַיְהוָה
he hath made me desolate all the day and faint
H5414 H8074 H3605 H3117 H1739

Additional Cross-References

Job 30:30 (Parallel theme): My skin is black upon me, and my bones are burned with heat.

Habakkuk 3:16 (Parallel theme): When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.

Psalms 22:14 (Parallel theme): I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

Job 19:6 (Parallel theme): Know now that God hath overthrown me, and hath compassed me with his net.

Ezekiel 17:20 (Parallel theme): And I will spread my net upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare, and I will bring him to Babylon, and will plead with him there for his trespass that he hath trespassed against me.

Hebrews 12:29 (Parallel theme): For our God is a consuming fire.

Psalms 66:11 (Parallel theme): Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst affliction upon our loins.

Nahum 1:6 (Parallel theme): Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

Ezekiel 12:13 (Parallel theme): My net also will I spread upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare: and I will bring him to Babylon to the land of the Chaldeans; yet shall he not see it, though he shall die there.

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