

Lamentations 2:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Mine eyes do fail with tears, my bowels are troubled, my liver is poured upon the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people; because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city.

Analysis

Mine eyes do fail with tears (כלו בזבוזות עין, kalu vademet einai)—The Hebrew verb 'kalu' means 'to be finished, spent, consumed'—total emotional and physical exhaustion from weeping. **My bowels are troubled, my liver is poured upon the earth** uses visceral Hebrew idiom: 'bowels' (עַזָּה, meay) represents the seat of emotions, while 'liver' (תַּבְּדֵל, kaved) symbolizes the core of life being drained out. **Because the children and sucklings swoon in the streets** identifies the cause: covenant curses fulfilled (Deuteronomy 28:53-57). The prophet's grief is not merely empathetic but participatory—he suffers with and for his people.

Historical Context

Eyewitness account of the siege's famine conditions. Archaeological evidence from 586 BC destruction layers confirms mass starvation. Jeremiah himself remained in Jerusalem during the siege (Jeremiah 38-39), witnessing these horrors firsthand before being forcibly taken to Egypt.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 – God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Does your grief over sin—personal or corporate—reach this visceral, consuming level, or have you grown comfortable with spiritual compromise?
2. How does Jeremiah's model of suffering **with** his people rather than condemning **from above** reflect Christ's incarnational solidarity with sinners?

Interlinear Text

בְּשִׁבְעָתָה וְעַמְּתִים בְּתִים שְׁבָרָה עַל כְּבָדִים my liver H5921 for the destruction H7667 of the daughter H1323 of my people H5971 swoon H5848

Additional Cross-References

Lamentations 1:20 (Parallel theme): Behold, O LORD; for I am in distress: my bowels are troubled; mine heart is turned within me; for I have grievously rebelled: abroad the sword bereaveth, at home there is as death.

Job 16:13 (Parallel theme): His archers compass me round about, he cleaveth my reins asunder, and doth not spare: he poureth out my gall upon the ground.

Lamentations 1:16 (Parallel theme): For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me: my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.

Isaiah 22:4 (Parallel theme): Therefore said I, Look away from me; I will weep bitterly, labour not to comfort me, because of the spoiling of the daughter of my people.

Psalms 6:7 (Parallel theme): Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies.

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.

Jeremiah 4:19 (Parallel theme): My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org