

Lamentations 3:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, he hath covered me with ashes.

Analysis

Teeth broken on gravel, trampled in ashes. Humiliation and degradation imagery. From prince to prisoner, beauty to ashes.

Historical Context

Exile meant loss of dignity, status, identity. Forced to eat unclean food, live in pagan land.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be covered with ashes, and how does Christ give beauty for ashes (Isaiah 61:3)?
2. What does eating gravel symbolize about the humiliation and degradation of judgment?
3. How might this extreme imagery help us grasp the seriousness of covenant unfaithfulness?

Interlinear Text

וְגַרְסָה	בְּחֻצֵּי	שֵׁנִי	הִכְפִּישׁ נִי	בְּאַפְרָיִם
He hath also broken	with gravel stones	my teeth	he hath covered	me with ashes
H1638	H2687	H8127	H3728	H665

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 20:17 (Parallel theme): Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

Jeremiah 6:26 (Parallel theme): O daughter of my people, gird thee with sackcloth, and wallow thyself in ashes: make thee mourning, as for an only son, most bitter lamentation: for the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us.

Psalms 3:7 (Parallel theme): Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

Psalms 58:6 (Parallel theme): Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD.