

Lamentations 3:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed,
because his compassions fail not.

Analysis

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed (חסדי יהוה כי לא-תמנו) chasde YHWH ki lo-tamnu)—After 21 verses of anguish, this pivotal turn introduces the book's theological center. 'Chesed' (mercies/lovingkindness) is covenant loyalty—God's commitment to His promises despite Israel's faithlessness. **We are not consumed** (lo-tamnu) acknowledges judgment's severity while marveling at its limitation. Total annihilation was deserved; survival proves covenant mercy. **His compassions fail not** (כי לא-כלו רחמי) ki lo-khalu rachamav)—'rachamim' derives from 'rechem' (womb), depicting motherly, visceral compassion that cannot ultimately abandon covenant children.

Historical Context

Written from within the catastrophe, not after restoration. This is faith speaking in the darkest hour, not hindsight after deliverance. The remnant's survival—including Jeremiah himself—despite Babylon's typical policy of total destruction of rebellious cities, demonstrated divine restraint.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Can you identify God's mercies even in the midst of His disciplining judgments in your life, or do you only recognize them in retrospect?
2. How does understanding that we deserve consumption but receive mercy instead transform your posture toward God's discipline?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------|-------------------------|-------|-------|--------------------------|-------------|
| מִזְמָרֶת | יְהִי | לֹא | כִּי | לֹא | כִּי |
| mercies | It is of the LORD'S | H3588 | H3808 | that we are not consumed | H3588 H3808 |
| H2617 | H3068 | | | H8552 | |
| כִּי | כִּי | | | | |
| fail | because his compassions | H3615 | H7356 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 86:15 (References Lord): But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Luke 1:50 (Parallel theme): And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

Nehemiah 9:31 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless for thy great mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor forsake them; for thou art a gracious and merciful God.

Malachi 3:6 (References Lord): For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Psalms 78:38 (Parallel theme): But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

Psalms 106:45 (Parallel theme): And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies.

Psalms 77:8 (Parallel theme): Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore?

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