

Lamentations 3:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

Analysis

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait (טוב וַיַּחַיל וְדֻמָּם לִתְשׁוּעָת הָיָה, tov veyachil vedunam litshuot YHWH)—Three key terms: 'good' (tov) affirms the value of the posture; 'hope' (yachil, from same root as verse 24) is expectant waiting; 'quietly' (dumam) means silently, without complaining or questioning. **For the salvation of the LORD** (litshuot YHWH)—'salvation' (yeshuah, from which 'Jesus' derives) is deliverance, victory, rescue. The verse counsels submission to divine timing without either despair or impatient demand. This 'quiet hope' contradicts the cultural narrative that activism and protest are the only acceptable responses to injustice.

Historical Context

Many exiles wanted immediate return, conspiracy against Babylon, or political solutions. Jeremiah had earlier written to exiles commanding them to 'build houses, plant gardens, multiply' in Babylon (Jeremiah 29:4-7)—long-term settling, not escape plotting. Quiet waiting was counter-cultural counsel then as now.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Study Questions

1. Does your 'hope' manifest as quiet trust or anxious agitation? What does your speech under trial reveal about the reality of your faith?
 2. How does 'quietly waiting for salvation' differ from passive fatalism or from the constant activity our culture equates with faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

ט וּבְלִיחִיל	לִתְשׁוּעָתְךָ	וְלִימָנָמָךָ	וְלִימָנָמָךָ	וְלִימָנָמָךָ
It is good H2896	and quietly wait H2342	for the salvation H1748	of the LORD H8668	of the LORD H3068

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:7 (References Lord): Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Psalms 37:34 (References Lord): Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.

Psalms 130:5 (Hope): I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

Hebrews 10:35 (Parallel theme): Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

Genesis 49:18 (Salvation): I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD.

Isaiah 30:15 (Salvation): For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

1 Peter 1:13 (Hope): Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Hebrews 3:14 (Parallel theme): For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Psalms 119:166 (Salvation): LORD, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments.

Psalms 119:174 (Salvation): I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.

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