

Lamentations 3:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city.

Analysis

Mine eye affecteth mine heart (עֵינִי עוֹלֵלָה לִנְפֹשִׁי, *eini olelah lenafshi*)—'Affecteth' (alal) means to deal severely with, to cause pain. The eye's witnessing causes soul-deep anguish. **Because of all the daughters of my city** (מִכֹּל בָּנוֹת עִירִי, *mikol benot iri*)—'daughters' likely refers to women and children of Jerusalem, though could mean surrounding villages (daughter-towns). The specificity of 'all' emphasizes comprehensive grief—not one family spared. This verse reveals the prophet's pastoral heart: leadership that genuinely suffers with those under their care, not merely dispenses theological truth from safe distance.

Historical Context

Jeremiah's prophetic ministry spanned 40+ years, watching the city he loved spiral toward disaster despite his warnings. He knew these people personally—prophesying wasn't abstract theology but relational agony. His nickname 'the weeping prophet' stems from verses like this.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Do you allow yourself to truly see suffering around you, or do you protect your heart by maintaining emotional distance?
2. How does pastoral ministry that 'sees and feels' rather than merely 'teaches and directs' reflect Christ's compassionate high priesthood?

Interlinear Text

עֵינִי	עוֹלֵלָה	לִנְפֹשׁ י	מִכָּל	בְּנוֹת	עִירִי:
Mine eye	affecteth	mine heart	H3605	because of all the daughters	of my city
H5869	H5953	H5315		H1323	H5892

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