

Lamentations 3:57

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not.

Analysis

Divine response remembered: **"Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not."** The Hebrew karavta beyom ekraeka amarta al-tira (קָרַבְתָּ בַּיּוֹם אֶקְרָאֲךָ אָמַרְתָּ אֶל-תִּירָא) describes God's responsive approach. Karavta (קָרַבְתָּ, "you drew near") indicates active movement toward the one praying. God doesn't merely hear from a distance but draws close to help.

"In the day that I called" (beyom ekraeka, בַּיּוֹם אֶקְרָאֲךָ) emphasizes immediacy—the very day of calling, God approached. "Thou saidst, Fear not" (amarta al-tira, אָמַרְתָּ אֶל-תִּירָא) recalls the most common command in Scripture. "Fear not" appears over 100 times in various forms, expressing God's reassurance to His people in crisis (Genesis 15:1, 26:24, Isaiah 41:10, 43:1, 5, Luke 12:32).

Theologically, this verse testifies to answered prayer. Though verses 1-54 described judgment, affliction, and the pit, verses 55-57 reveal God heard, drew near, and spoke comfort. This demonstrates that divine discipline doesn't mean permanent distance. The psalmist testifies similarly: "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit" (Psalm 34:18). God's nearness to the suffering, repentant heart is guaranteed (James 4:8, 10).

Historical Context

God's drawing near "in the day" Jeremiah called likely refers to the rescue from the cistern (Jeremiah 38:7-13). Ebed-melech's intervention came swiftly, preventing Jeremiah's death. This was divine providence—God drawing near through human agency. The "fear not" may have been God's internal assurance to Jeremiah's heart, or prophetic word, or simply the peace that came with rescue.

For exilic Israel, God's "fear not" found fulfillment in restoration promises. Isaiah 40-55, often called the "Book of Comfort," repeatedly commands "fear not": "Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine" (Isaiah 43:1). "Fear not, O Jacob my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen" (Isaiah 44:2). These promises sustained hope during decades of exile.

The historical fulfillment came through Cyrus. Isaiah 45:1-7 shows God raised Cyrus to conquer Babylon and authorize Jewish return (Ezra 1:1-4). When the 70 years ended (Jeremiah 29:10), God indeed drew near and said "fear not" through concrete historical action. The same principle applies to all who call upon God—He draws near in their day of trouble and speaks peace to fearful hearts.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God 'drawing near' in the day we call upon Him demonstrate His personal, responsive nature rather than distant indifference?
2. What does the command 'fear not' reveal about God's understanding of our emotional state and His desire to give peace?
3. In what ways did Christ's incarnation represent the ultimate 'drawing near'—God coming to us in flesh (John 1:14, Matthew 1:23)?

4. How should past experiences of God drawing near when we called encourage us to cry out again in present troubles?

Interlinear Text

קָרַבְתָּ	בַּיּוֹם	אֲקִרְאָךָ	אָמַרְתָּ	תִּירָא:	אֵל
Thou drewest near	in the day	that I called	upon thee thou saidst	H408	Fear
H7126	H3117	H7121	H559		H3372

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 41:10 (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

James 4:8 (Parallel theme): Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Isaiah 58:9 (Parallel theme): Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

Revelation 2:10 (Parallel theme): Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Isaiah 41:14 (Parallel theme): Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

Psalms 145:18 (Parallel theme): The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

Acts 27:24 (Parallel theme): Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

Acts 18:9 (Parallel theme): Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:

Psalms 69:18 (Parallel theme): Draw nigh unto my soul, and redeem it: deliver me because of mine enemies.

Jeremiah 1:17 (Parallel theme): Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

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