

Lamentations 3:59

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O LORD, thou hast seen my wrong: judge thou my cause.

Analysis

O LORD, thou hast seen my wrong: judge thou my cause (בָּאִיתָה יְהֹוָה שָׁוֹתָתִי, ra'itah YHWH avatati shoftah mishpati)—'Thou hast seen' (ra'itah) appeals to God as witness. 'My wrong' (avatati) is the injustice done to me, my oppression. 'Judge thou my cause' (shoftah mishpati)—a legal appeal for vindication. Jeremiah appeals to the righteous Judge to vindicate him against false accusers. This is imprecatory prayer—not personal revenge but appeal to divine justice. It acknowledges that vengeance belongs to God (Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19), removing it from human hands while confidently expecting divine action.

Historical Context

Jeremiah faced constant opposition: beaten, imprisoned, mocked, plotted against by religious leaders and royalty alike (Jeremiah 20:1-2; 26:8-11; 37:15; 38:4-6). His vindication came not in his lifetime but in history's verdict—he was right, and Jerusalem fell exactly as he prophesied. Trusting God to judge meant relinquishing immediate vindication.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. When wronged, do you trust God to judge your cause, or do you take vindication into your own hands through gossip, retaliation, or self-justification?
2. How does appealing to God as Judge free you from the burden of defending yourself and enable you to love even unjust accusers?

Interlinear Text

בְּאָיְתָה שְׁפַט הַיְהּוּנִים
thou hast seen O LORD my wrong judge thou my cause
H7200 H3068 H5792 H8199 H4941

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 43:1 (Judgment): Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.

Psalms 9:4 (Parallel theme): For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right.

Psalms 26:1 (Judgment): Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide.

Psalms 35:1 (References Lord): Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.

Genesis 31:42 (Parallel theme): Except the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely thou hadst sent me away now empty. God hath seen mine affliction and the labour of my hands, and rebuked thee yesternight.

1 Peter 2:23 (Judgment): Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

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