

Lamentations 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Her Nazarites were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were more ruddy in body than rubies, their polishing was of sapphire:

Analysis

Nazarites purer than snow, whiter than milk, ruddier than rubies—now blacker than coal. Sin degrades.

Historical Context

Nazarite vow symbolized dedication (Numbers 6). Even dedicated ones suffered—no immunity.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does sin defile even the dedicated, and how does Christ provide purity?
2. Why does Jeremiah emphasize the physical beauty and purity of the nobles before their downfall?
3. What does this contrast between former glory and present ruin reveal about the totality of Jerusalem's fall?

Interlinear Text

זָכּוּ	נָזִירֵי יֵה	מִשֹּׁלֶג	צָחִי	מִחֶלֶב
were purer	Her Nazarites	than snow	they were whiter	than milk
H2141	H5139	H7950	H6705	H2461
אֲדָמוּ	עַצָּם	מִפְּנֵי יָם	סַפֵּי יָר	גִּזְרָתָם:
they were more ruddy	in body	than rubies	was of sapphire	their polishing
H119	H6106	H6443	H5601	H1508

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 51:7 (Parallel theme): Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Song of Solomon 5:10: My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand.

Psalms 144:12 (Parallel theme): That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:

1 Samuel 16:12 (Parallel theme): And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.