

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

מְפָלָב צָחָב מַשְׁלָחָב
than milk than snow they were whiter
than Nazarites were purer

H2461 H6705 H7950 H5139 H2141

גִּזְבָּתָם: סְפִּיר מְפָנִים יָמָם אֶצְמָמָן
their polishing was of sapphire than rubies in body they were more ruddy

H1508 H5601 H6443 H6106 H119

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.