

Lamentations 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick.

Analysis

Visage blacker than coal, unrecognized in streets. Famine physical toll. Skin shriveled on bones.

Historical Context

Severe malnutrition causes dramatic physical changes. Archaeological evidence confirms famine victims.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does physical degradation teach about comprehensive corruption?
2. How does the image of unrecognizable, shriveled appearance illustrate the devastating effects of famine?
3. What spiritual lessons can be drawn from physical deterioration as a consequence of covenant unfaithfulness?

Interlinear Text

בְּחִזְצָרֶת וְתַּנְבְּרֵר אֶל אֶת־נְכָרֶר וְתַּנְבְּרֵר מִשְׁחָרֶר
is blacker than a coal Their visage they are not known in the streets
H2821 H7815 H8389 H3808 H5234 H2351

כִּי הַיְבָשָׁה
cleaveth their skin to their bones it is withered
H6821 H5785 H5921 H6106 H3001 H1961

כַּעַזְבָּן:

it is become like a stick

H6086

Additional Cross-References

Job 30:30 (Parallel theme): My skin is black upon me, and my bones are burned with heat.

Lamentations 5:10 (Parallel theme): Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine.

Psalms 119:83 (Parallel theme): For I am become like a bottle in the smoke; yet do I not forget thy statutes.

Job 19:20 (Parallel theme): My bone cleaveth to my skin and to my flesh, and I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.

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