

# 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

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

## Historical Context

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

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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חָשׁוּךְ	מִשְׁחֹר	תִּצְאֶרְםָּ	לֹא	נִכְרָוּ	בַּחוּצוֹת
is blacker	than a coal	Their visage	H3808	they are not known	in the streets
H2821	H7815	H8389		H5234	H2351
צִפָּד	עוֹרָם	עַל	עֲצָמָם	יָבֵשׁ	הָיָה
cleaveth	their skin	H5921	to their bones	it is withered	H1961
H6821	H5785		H6106	H3001	

כְּעֵץ:

it is become like a stick  
H6086

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.