

Lamentations 4:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the field.

Analysis

Better die by sword than famine. Quick death more merciful than slow starvation. Ultimate suffering comparison.

Historical Context

Siege warfare horror—watching yourself and loved ones slowly starve. Battle death was preferable.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does this show varying judgment severities?
2. Why would death by sword be considered more merciful than slow starvation?
3. What does this comparison teach about the degrees of suffering in divine judgment?

Interlinear Text

רֹשֶׁת בָּשָׁר מִמְּלָלָה	טוֹב יְמִינָה	רֹשֶׁת בָּשָׁר מִמְּלָלָה	טוֹב יְמִינָה	רֹשֶׁת בָּשָׁר מִמְּלָלָה	טוֹב יְמִינָה
are better	H1961	They that be slain	with the sword	They that be slain	with hunger
H2896		H2491	H2719	H2491	H7458
שְׁאֵלָה מִתְּנֻבָּה תְּמִימָה יְמִינָה					
for these	H1992	pine away	stricken	through for want of the fruits	of the field
	H2100		H1856	H8570	H7704

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 24:23 (Parallel theme): And your tires shall be upon your heads, and your shoes upon your feet: ye shall not mourn nor weep; but ye shall pine away for your iniquities, and mourn one toward another.

Leviticus 26:39 (Parallel theme): And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they pine away with them.