

# 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

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

## Historical Context

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

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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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

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טוֹב יִם	הֵיוּ	מִחֲלָלֵי י	חֶרֶב	מִחֲלָלֵי י	כָּעַב
are better	H1961	They that be slain	with the sword	They that be slain	with hunger
H2896		H2491	H2719	H2491	H7458
שָׁהֵם	יָזוּבוּ	מִדָּקָר יִם	מִתְנוּבָת	שָׂדֵי:	
for these	pine away	stricken	through for want of the fruits	of the field	
H1992	H2100	H1856	H8570	H7704	

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.