

Micah 7:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.

Analysis

"Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me." This confession expresses triumphant faith amid adversity. The imperative "Rejoice not" (al-tismchi) forbids premature celebration by enemies. The confidence "when I fall, I shall arise" (ki naphalti qamti) demonstrates resilient faith—not "if" but "when," acknowledging difficulty while trusting restoration. "When I sit in darkness" describes present affliction, yet "the LORD shall be a light unto me" affirms divine illumination will come. This anticipates Christ as "the light of the world" (John 8:12) who brings those in darkness into marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

Historical Context

Micah likely speaks for faithful Israel suffering under divine discipline. The "enemy" could be hostile nations (Assyria, Babylon) or internal opponents mocking the remnant's faithfulness. The passage teaches that God's discipline of believers includes restoration—we may fall but won't be utterly cast down (Psalm 37:24). This prophetic confidence sustained Jewish exiles in Babylon and encourages all believers facing temporary setbacks under God's fatherly discipline (Hebrews 12:5-11).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does confidence in eventual restoration help endure present darkness?
2. What does it mean to fall yet rise—how is this different from never falling?
3. How does Christ as our light transform our experience of spiritual darkness?

Interlinear Text

אֶל	תְּשֻׁמָּה י	אֵל בְּתִי	לִי	כִּי לִי	נָפַל לִתִּי	קָמָתִי
H408	H8056	not against me O mine enemy	H0	H3588	when I fall	I shall arise
		H341			H5307	H6965
כִּי	אֲשֵׁב	בַּחֹשֶׁךְ	יְהוָה	אֶרְאֶה	לִי:	
H3588	when I sit	in darkness	the LORD	shall be a light	H0	
	H3427	H2822	H3068	H216		

Additional Cross-References

John 8:12 (Light): Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Isaiah 9:2 (Light): The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Psalms 112:4 (Resurrection): Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

Psalms 27:1 (Light): The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Obadiah 1:12 (Parallel theme): But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Light): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Psalms 38:16 (Parallel theme): For I said, Hear me, lest otherwise they should rejoice over me: when my foot slippeth, they magnify themselves against me.

Revelation 22:5 (Light): And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Psalms 84:11 (References Lord): For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Amos 9:11 (Resurrection): In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: