

Psalms 102:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By reason of the voice of my groaning my bones cleave to my skin.

Analysis

The groaning (qol anachati) is so intense it causes physical wasting; 'bones cleave to my skin' describes severe emaciation. This vivid description validates that spiritual anguish manifests physically. Reformed theology maintains the unity of the human person—soul and body are interconnected. Job experienced similar physical manifestations of grief (Job 19:20). Christ, in Gethsemane, experienced such intense anguish that His sweat became like blood (Luke 22:44), demonstrating His full identification with human suffering.

Historical Context

Ancient medical understanding did not separate physical and emotional health as modern medicine does. The Hebrew conception of personhood was holistic, recognizing that spiritual and physical well-being are interconnected.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does acknowledging the physical effects of spiritual suffering help you extend compassion to others?
2. What comfort do you find in knowing Christ experienced bodily anguish during His earthly ministry?

Interlinear Text

לְבָשָׂר: עַצְמָה יָבֹק הַנִּזְחָת יָבֹק וְלֹא

By reason of the voice of my groaning cleave my bones to my skin

H6963

H585

cleave

H1692

my bones

H6106

to my skin

H1320

Additional Cross-References

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.

Psalms 6:8 (Parallel theme): Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.

Proverbs 17:22 (Parallel theme): A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Lamentations 4:8 (Parallel theme): 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.