

Psalms 102:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top.

Analysis

Sleeplessness (shaqad) due to distress intensifies suffering; the sparrow 'alone upon the house top' emphasizes vulnerability and exposure. Sparrows typically flock together; a solitary sparrow faces danger. This image of watchful isolation resonates with Christ's experience in Gethsemane when His disciples slept and He faced His agony alone (Mark 14:37-40). The Reformed doctrine of union with Christ means believers share in His sufferings (Phil 3:10) but are never truly alone (Heb 13:5).

Historical Context

In ancient Palestine, flat rooftops served as living spaces for people and nesting places for birds. A lone sparrow on a rooftop would be exposed to predators and elements, vulnerable without the flock's protection.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. When you experience spiritual isolation, how do you practice the presence of God?

2. How does Christ's experience of abandonment assure you that He understands your loneliest moments?

Interlinear Text

שָׁקֹךְ דָּתִי	וְאֶהְיֶה	כְּצִפּוֹר	בְּיַד	עַל	גֹּגֶט:
I watch	H1961	and am as a sparrow	alone	H5921	upon the house top
H8245		H6833	H909		H1406

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 77:4 (Parallel theme): Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

Psalms 38:11 (Parallel theme): My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore; and my kinsmen stand afar off.

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