

Psalms 105:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread.

Analysis

God 'called for a famine upon the land' and 'brake the whole staff of bread.' This demonstrates God's sovereignty even over disasters. Famine wasn't random but divinely appointed to accomplish His purposes. 'Staff of bread' (matteh lechem) refers to bread as life's support. Breaking it means removing sustenance entirely. This severe famine drove Jacob's family to Egypt, setting up the Exodus. God uses even hardship to fulfill His plans. Christ is the bread of life (John 6:35) who sustains believers spiritually even when physical provision fails.

Historical Context

The famine mentioned in Genesis 41-42 affected the entire region, driving Jacob's family to Egypt where Joseph had prepared abundant grain. This famine was part of God's plan to bring Israel to Egypt.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you trust God's sovereignty when He permits or sends difficulty into your life?
2. What does Christ as the bread of life mean when you face material lack or hardship?

Interlinear Text

וְקָרָא	כִּי עָבַר	עַל	הָאָרֶץ	כָּל	מִטָּה
Moreover he called	for a famine	H5921	upon the land	H3605	the whole staff
H7121	H7458		H776		H4294
לֶחֶם	שָׁבַר:				
of bread	he brake				
H3899	H7665				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 4:16 (Parallel theme): Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, behold, I will break the staff of bread in Jerusalem: and they shall eat bread by weight, and with care; and they shall drink water by measure, and with astonishment:

Isaiah 3:1 (Parallel theme): For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water,

Genesis 41:54 (Parallel theme): And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

Leviticus 26:26 (Parallel theme): And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied.

Acts 7:11 (Parallel theme): Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Chanaan, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance.

Psalms 104:15 (Parallel theme): And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.

2 Kings 8:1 (Parallel theme): Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years.

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