

Psalms 107:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.

Analysis

This verse describes the consequence of rebellion. 'Therefore he brought down their heart with labour' means God humbled them through hardship. 'Brought down' (kana, כָּנָה) means to humble, subdue, or bring low. 'Their heart' indicates inner pride was targeted. 'With labour' (amal, עָמַל) means toil, trouble, or misery. 'They fell down, and there was none to help' depicts total collapse without human rescue. Rebellion leads to humiliation and helplessness. God sometimes orchestrates circumstances to break human pride and create desperation that drives us to cry out. Humbling is severe mercy—bringing low to bring to Himself.

Historical Context

Exile humbled proud Israel—from independent kingdom to captive servants. Jeremiah prophesied this humbling as discipline: 'I will correct thee in measure' (Jeremiah 30:11). The 'labour' included literal toil as captives and the grief of loss. This humbling prepared hearts for return and repentance. Similarly, God humbles believers to break self-sufficiency and create dependency on Him alone.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God use hardship and 'labour' to humble prideful hearts?
2. Why is humbling sometimes necessary before deliverance can come?
3. In what ways has God 'brought down your heart' to drive you to depend on Him?

Interlinear Text

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|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|--------|
| וַיִּבֶן ע | בְּעָמָל ל | לִבָּם | כִּי שָׁלָו | וְאֵין |
| Therefore he brought down | with labour | their heart | they fell down | |
| H3665 | H5999 | H3820 | H3782 | H369 |
| עֲזָרָה: | | | | |
| and there was none to help | | | | |
| H5826 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 22:11 (Parallel theme): Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.

Exodus 2:23 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.