

Psalms 107:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted.

Analysis

This verse begins the third rescue scenario: healing from sickness. 'Fools because of their transgression' connects sickness to sin. 'Fools' (ewil, עוֹלִים) means senseless or morally deficient, not intellectually limited. 'Transgression' (pesha, פְּשָׁעַ) means rebellion or covenant-breaking. 'And because of their iniquities, are afflicted' uses innah (עָנָה), meaning to be bowed down, afflicted, or humbled. While not all sickness results from personal sin (John 9:3), this scenario depicts cases where foolish rebellion brought affliction. Sin has consequences, including physical suffering, demonstrating the interconnection of spiritual and physical realities.

Historical Context

Israel experienced this pattern: covenant-breaking brought plague, pestilence, and disease as covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28:21-22, 27-29, 35). Leviticus 26:14-16 warned that disobedience would bring 'consumption and fever.' Numbers 11, 16, and 25 record plagues following rebellion. For post-exilic readers, this explained suffering as consequence of ancestral sin while also offering hope of healing through crying out to God.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What is the relationship between sin and suffering/sickness in Scripture?
2. How should we understand cases where foolishness leads to affliction?
3. When is it appropriate to see sickness as consequence of sin versus other causes?

Interlinear Text

אֵלִים מִדָּ רַךְ פֶּשַׁע וּ, מַעַו נַתִּיָּה ם
Fools **because** **of their transgression** **and because of their iniquities**
H191 H1870 H6588 H5771

יִתְעַנּוּ:
are afflicted
H6031

Additional Cross-References

Lamentations 3:39 (Sin): Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Proverbs 1:22 (Parallel theme): How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?