

Psalm 107:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Again, they are minished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow.

Analysis

This verse describes reversal of blessing through judgment. 'Again, they are minished and brought low' shows decrease after multiplication (v. 38). 'Minished' (maat, מַעַת) means to be or become small, few, diminished. 'Brought low' (shachach, שָׁחַךְ) means to be bowed down, humbled. 'Through oppression, affliction, and sorrow' lists causes: external pressure (otser, עֹצֶר), affliction (raah, רָאָה), and sorrow (yagon, יָגוֹן). This demonstrates the covenant curse cycle: blessing for obedience, cursing for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28). God's people experience rise and fall corresponding to faithfulness. This warns against presuming on blessing—ongoing faithfulness is required.

Historical Context

Israel's history exemplified this cycle: blessing under faithful leadership, cursing under apostasy. Judges portrays repeated cycles of sin → oppression → repentance → deliverance. Even after exile's restoration, later generations again experienced decrease and oppression (under Greeks and Romans). The cycle warns each generation that covenant blessing isn't automatic inheritance but requires ongoing faithfulness. Churches and nations today experience similar patterns: blessing followed by apostasy leading to decline.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 – Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the blessing-curse cycle demonstrate the necessity of ongoing covenant faithfulness?
2. What 'oppression, affliction, and sorrow' result from turning from God today?
3. How can churches avoid presuming on past blessings while drifting into unfaithfulness?

Interlinear Text

וְיִמְשַׁט תְּבִשָּׁת	תְּבִשָּׁת חַדְשָׁה	מֵעַזָּר	בְּשַׁת הַ	בְּשַׁת הַ
Again they are minished	and brought low	through oppression	affliction	and sorrow

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 10:32 (Parallel theme): In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short: and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel;

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