

Psalm 22:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.

Analysis

The ability to 'tell' (count) all bones indicates extreme emaciation and stretched-out posture of crucifixion. 'They look and stare upon me' captures the humiliating public spectacle of Roman execution. Christ's nakedness and exposure fulfilled this prophecy, demonstrating the depths of His humiliation. Reformed theology emphasizes that Christ bore our shame fully—spiritual, physical, social—to clothe us in His righteousness completely (Isa. 61:10).

Historical Context

Crucifixion victims were typically crucified naked, adding humiliation to physical agony. The public nature of execution served as deterrent and spectacle. Christ endured this shame 'despising the shame' (Heb. 12:2) for the joy of saving His people.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's public shame cover your private sins?

2. What does His willingness to be 'gazed upon' teach about the extent of His love?

Interlinear Text

בָּנִים יְרָאֶנּוּ אֶת־צְבָאֶנּוּ כִּי־עֲצָמוֹתִי
I may tell all my bones they look and stare
H5608 H3605 H1992 H5027 H0
H6106 H7200

Additional Cross-References

Luke 23:35 (Parallel theme): And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.

Luke 23:27 (Parallel theme): And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him.

Isaiah 52:14 (Parallel theme): As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

Job 33:21 (Parallel theme): His flesh is consumed away, that it cannot be seen; and his bones that were not seen stick out.

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