

Psalms 25:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.

Analysis

The cry 'Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins' links suffering and sin, suggesting the psalmist sees connection between them. While not all suffering is punishment, sin does bring consequences. The plea for forgiveness acknowledges spiritual need amid physical/emotional distress. Reformed theology emphasizes that God's 'looking upon' combines attention and compassion—He sees our affliction and acts mercifully. Forgiveness is the deepest need underlying all other needs.

Historical Context

Israel's theology connected covenant unfaithfulness to national suffering (exile, oppression). While rejecting simplistic cause-effect (see Job), Scripture acknowledges that sin produces suffering. Confession and forgiveness were essential for restoration.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does seeking forgiveness address root causes of your affliction?
2. What does it mean to ask God to 'look upon' your pain?

Interlinear Text

רֵא ה	עַ נִי	וְעַמְלִי	אֶשְׁא	לְכָל	חַטֹּאתַי:
Look	upon mine affliction	and my pain	and forgive	H3605	all my sins
H7200	H6040	H5999	H5375		H2403

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 16:12 (Sin): It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.

Psalms 119:132 (Parallel theme): Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.