

Psalms 38:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My heart panteth, my strength faileth me: as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me.

Analysis

My heart panteth, my strength faileth me: as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me. Three losses: heart panteth (סַחַר, sachar, whirls/races), strength faileth (קֹחַ, koach, vigor depleted), light of eyes gone (dimmed vision). The vital centers—emotional, physical, perceptual—all compromised.

The panting heart suggests either fear or exhaustion. The depleted koach echoes Samson's loss of strength (Judges 16:17). The dimmed eyes recall Eli's failing vision before judgment fell (1 Samuel 3:2). David experiences compound loss—but addresses it all to God ('before thee' v.9), transforming complaint into confession. Even in darkness, he speaks toward the Light.

Historical Context

Loss of vision was particularly dreaded in ancient world, associated with old age, divine judgment, or demon possession. Warriors depended on keen eyesight. A king whose eyes 'went dark' would be seen as unfit to rule. David's vulnerability here is profound—he risks political consequences by admitting weakness.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. When your spiritual 'heart is panting' and 'strength fails,' where do you turn —inward to manage or upward to confess?
2. How do you maintain hope when the 'light of your eyes' (clarity, vision, direction) has gone dark?
3. What does David's willingness to voice total depletion to God teach about authentic prayer versus 'victorious' pretense?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| לִבִּי | סֵחֲרָחַר | עָזַבְנִי | כֹחִי | וְאֹרֹךְ | עֵינַי |
| My heart | panteth | faileth | my strength | me as for the light | of mine eyes |
| H3820 | H5503 | H5800 | H3581 | H216 | H5869 |
| גַּם | הִיא | אֵין | אֶתִּי: | | |
| H1571 | it | also is gone | H854 | | |
| | H1992 | H369 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 6:7 (Parallel theme): Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies.

Psalms 88:9 (Parallel theme): Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction: LORD, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched out my hands unto thee.

Psalms 69:3 (Parallel theme): I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God.