

Psalms 38:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore.

Analysis

For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore. David employs battle imagery—God's arrows (צִיִּים, chitsim) have penetrated and remain lodged, while His hand (יָד, yad) bears down with crushing weight. This is not enemy attack but divine discipline.

The Hebrew נָחַת (nachat, 'stick fast') implies arrows that have found their mark and remain embedded—God's corrective judgment is both precise and sustained. Job 6:4 uses similar imagery. The hand that created and blesses now presses in holy discipline, demonstrating that sin injures our fellowship with God before it injures us.

Historical Context

Arrows were the precision weapons of ancient warfare. A lodged arrow caused ongoing pain and required careful extraction. David, a warrior-king familiar with battlefield wounds, uses this metaphor to describe spiritual and possibly physical affliction under God's disciplinary hand.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Have you experienced seasons where God's discipline felt like 'arrows' that wouldn't relent? How did you respond?
2. Why does God sometimes allow the consequences of sin to remain 'stuck fast' rather than removing them immediately?
3. How does recognizing affliction as coming from God's hand (not random fate) change your response to suffering?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הֵן צִיָּב	וַתִּנָּח תַּ	בְּ יָ	וַתִּנָּח תַּ	עַל יָ
H3588	For thine arrows	presseth me sore	H0	presseth me sore	H5921
	H2671	H5181		H5181	
יָדְךָ:					
in me and thy hand					
H3027					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 32:4 (Parallel theme): For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

Job 6:4 (Parallel theme): For the arrows of the Almighty are within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.