

Psalm 38:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For my loins are filled with a loathsome disease: and there is no soundness in my flesh.

Analysis

For my loins are filled with a loathsome disease: and there is no soundness in my flesh. The loins ('לְקָשֶׁל, kesel, seat of vitality/reproductive power) are filled with loathsome disease (נִקְלָה, niqle, something burned/scorched). This repeats v.3's 'no soundness' (מְתוּם, metom), emphasizing total corruption from core to surface.

Loins represent strength, vigor, procreative power—life's generative force. Their being 'scorched' or 'diseased' suggests complete depletion. Whether literal illness or metaphor, David experiences sin's destruction at his very source of vitality. This anticipates Christ bearing sin's full curse—disease, shame, separation—in our place (Isaiah 53:4-5).

Historical Context

Loins in Hebrew thought represented not just reproductive organs but the center of physical strength and emotional passion. Girding the loins meant preparing for battle or work. Diseased loins meant total incapacitation—unable to fight, work, or generate life. This would effectively end David's kingship if permanent.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does sin attack the very 'loins' (core vitality) of your spiritual life, draining energy for godly pursuits?
2. What does the progression from surface wounds (v.5) to core disease (v.7) teach about sin's deepening destruction?
3. Where do you need Christ's healing for the 'loathsome disease' at the center of recurring sin patterns?

Interlinear Text

כִּי מִלְאָה בְּלִי נְגַלְּהַ הַיְאִים
H3588 For my loins are filled with a loathsome H369
H3689 H4390 H7033

בְּשֶׁרֶת מִתְּבָשֵׂל
disease and there is no soundness in my flesh
H4974 H1320

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