

Psalm 38:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am feeble and sore broken: I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart.

Analysis

I am feeble and sore broken: I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart. David reaches the nadir: feeble (אָפָּה, pug, numb/torpid), sore broken (דָּקָה, dakah, crushed to powder), roared (שָׁאָגָה, sha'ag, groaning like a lion). The heart (בַּלְעָד, lev) lacks quietness—inner chaos erupts in animalistic groaning.

This vocabulary of total breakdown—numbness, pulverization, bestial roaring—depicts someone at the end of themselves. The 'roaring' recalls Job's lament (Job 3:24) and anticipates Jesus's anguished prayers (Hebrews 5:7). David has descended from royal dignity to wounded animal, yet this very extremity positions him for divine rescue. God draws near to the crushed (Psalm 34:18).

Historical Context

The progression in verses 1-8 mirrors the stages of serious illness: onset of symptoms → spreading infection → systemic failure → delirium. Ancient readers would recognize this as potentially fatal. The 'roaring' suggests not articulate speech but wordless groaning—when suffering transcends language, the Spirit intercedes (Romans 8:26).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Have you experienced spiritual suffering so intense it reduced you to wordless 'roaring' before God?
2. Why does God sometimes allow His children to be 'crushed to powder' before bringing deliverance?
3. How does David's brutal honesty about his broken state give you permission to bring your own devastation to God?

Interlinear Text

מִפְנַתְמַת
נִפְגַּגְתִּי
וְנִדְכַּכְתִּי
עַד
מֵאַד
שֶׁ אַגְתִּי
מִפְנַתְמַת
I am feeble broken and sore I have roared by reason of the disquietness
H6313 H1794 H5704 H3966 H7580 H5100

לְבָבִי
of my heart
H3820

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 32:3 (Parallel theme): When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

Job 3:24 (Parallel theme): For my sighing cometh before I eat, and my roarings are poured out like the waters.

Job 30:28 (Parallel theme): I went mourning without the sun: I stood up, and I cried in the congregation.