

Psalms 41:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing:
thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

Analysis

The promise that God will 'strengthen him upon the bed of languishing' addresses the reality that even the compassionate suffer illness. The phrase 'make all his bed in his sickness' suggests God's intimate, tender care--like a nurse adjusting bedding for comfort. Divine care extends to the most vulnerable moments of physical weakness.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern culture often interpreted illness as divine punishment. This psalm subverts that theology by showing God's care for the sick righteous person, anticipating Jesus' healing ministry to the outcasts.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's promise to 'make all his bed' in sickness comfort you in times of physical weakness?

2. What does this verse teach about the relationship between faith and physical health?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה ה	! סַעֲדָנוּ	עַל	עַ רֶשֶׁת	דָּוָי	כָּל
The LORD	will strengthen	H5921	him upon the bed	of languishing	H3605
H3068	H5582		H6210	H1741	
מִשְׁכַּב ו	הִפּ כָּתָה	בְּחִלּוֹ:			
all his bed	thou wilt make	in his sickness			
H4904	H2015	H2483			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 73:26 (Parallel theme): My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

2 Kings 1:16 (References Lord): And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron, is it not because there is no God in Israel to enquire of his word? therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

2 Kings 1:6 (References Lord): And they said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.