

Psalm 42:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?

Analysis

Tears have become David's 'meat day and night' while enemies continually ask 'Where is thy God?' This mocking question attacks the foundation of faith--if God is real and good, why does He allow such suffering? The image of tears as food suggests grief so overwhelming that it displaces normal sustenance; sorrow consumes everything.

Historical Context

The taunt 'Where is thy God?' echoes throughout Scripture when God's people suffer (Joel 2:17; Micah 7:10). It becomes the central question the psalms of lament address, maintaining faith despite apparent divine absence.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when suffering prompts the question 'Where is your God?'

2. What does it mean that grief can become so consuming that tears replace food?

Interlinear Text

בְּאַמְּרָה	אַל	לִיה	יְוָמָם	לִקְרָם	דְּמַעַת	לִ	קִימָה
H1961	H0	My tears	have been my meat	day	and night	say	
		H1832	H3899	H3119	H3915		
							H559
אַל	כָּל	וּמָם	הִיא	בְּאַלְפִּים			
H413	H3605	while they continually	H346	unto me Where is thy God			
		H3117		H430			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 79:10 (References God): Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God? let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy servants which is shed.

Psalms 115:2 (References God): Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is now their God?

Psalms 80:5 (Parallel theme): Thou feedest them with the bread of tears; and givest them tears to drink in great measure.

Joel 2:17 (References God): Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

Psalms 102:9 (Parallel theme): For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping,

Psalms 79:12 (Parallel theme): And render unto our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O Lord.

Psalms 42:10 (References God): As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God?

2 Samuel 16:12 (Parallel theme): It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day.

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