

Psalm 44:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Though thou hast sore broken us in the place of dragons, and covered us with the shadow of death.

Analysis

The paradox intensifies: 'Though thou hast sore broken us in the place of dragons, and covered us with the shadow of death.' God Himself has broken them--suffering comes from divine hand, not despite divine sovereignty. 'Place of dragons' suggests wilderness desolation; 'shadow of death' (Hebrew tsalmaveth) indicates mortal danger and deep darkness.

Historical Context

The 'place of dragons' (jackals) represents uninhabitable wasteland, the opposite of the fertile promised land. Being driven to such places suggested loss of covenant blessing and divine presence.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God's hand in suffering differ from blaming Him?
2. What hope exists when we find ourselves in 'the shadow of death'?

Interlinear Text

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|-------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|
| כִּי | פִּתְנָה | בָּמָקָם | תְּהִימָּה | תִּתְּחִזֵּק |
| H3588 | Though thou hast sore broken | us in the place | of dragons | and covered |
| | H1794 | H4725 | H8577 | H3680 |

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|-------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| עַל | יכוּ | בְּצִלְמָוֹת |
| H5921 | us with the shadow of death | H6757 |

Additional Cross-References

Job 3:5 (Parallel theme): Let darkness and the shadow of death stain it; let a cloud dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it.

Psalms 23:4 (Parallel theme): Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalms 51:8 (Parallel theme): Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.