

Psalms 44:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord? arise, cast us not off for ever.

Analysis

The bold imperative: 'Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord?' This anthropomorphic language doesn't suggest God actually sleeps but expresses the felt experience of divine inactivity. 'Arise, cast us not off for ever' pleads for intervention. The prayer assumes God can act but apparently chooses not to, creating the theological tension.

Historical Context

The command to 'awake' echoes earlier prayers (Psalms 7:6; 35:23) and Elijah's mockery of Baal's prophets whose god might be 'sleeping' (1 Kings 18:27). Israel's God is neither sleeping nor powerless--hence the urgency of the cry.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Is it appropriate to tell God to 'wake up'? What does such bold prayer reveal about relationship?

2. How do we pray when God seems inactive without accusing Him of negligence?

Interlinear Text

עֹרֵבָה	לָמָּה	תִּישָׁן	אֲדֹנָי	קֵץ יָצָה	אֵל	תִּזְנוּ ח
Awake	H4100	why sleepest	thou O Lord	arise	H408	cast us not off
H5782		H3462	H136	H6974		H2186

לְנֶצַח:
for ever
H5331

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 7:6 (Resurrection): Arise, O LORD, in thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies: and awake for me to the judgment that thou hast commanded.

Psalms 78:65 (References Lord): Then the Lord awaked as one out of sleep, and like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine.

Psalms 35:23 (References Lord): Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my Lord.