

Psalms 60:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast shewed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment.

Analysis

God showing His people 'hard things' indicates trials that test and refine. The wine of trembling/staggering depicts judgment that intoxicates—removing stability and clarity. Yet this comes from God's hand ('thou hast made us to drink'), distinguishing discipline from punishment. Believers may experience disorienting trials under God's sovereign purpose for sanctification.

Historical Context

The imagery of God's cup of wrath appears throughout Scripture (Isaiah 51:17, Jeremiah 25:15). Israel drinking this cup represented experiencing consequences of covenant unfaithfulness, yet as discipline within relationship, not ultimate rejection.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain faith when God Himself ordains 'hard things'?
2. What is the difference between discipline that staggers and punishment that destroys?

Interlinear Text

הָרָא יְתָ	עַמְּךָ	קָשָׁה	הָ שָׁקִיתָנוּ	יַיִן
Thou hast shewed	thy people	hard things	thou hast made us to drink	the wine
H7200	H5971	H7186	H8248	H3196

תִּרְעָלָהּ:
of astonishment
H8653

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 51:17 (Parallel theme): Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, and wrung them out.

Isaiah 51:22 (Parallel theme): Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again:

Psalms 71:20 (Parallel theme): Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

Psalms 75:8 (Parallel theme): For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.

Jeremiah 25:15 (Parallel theme): For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.

