

Psalms 73:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

Analysis

The attempt to understand through reason—"When I thought to know this"—failed: 'it was too painful for me.' Human intellect alone cannot resolve theodicy's mysteries. The problem of evil and prosperity's distribution exceed rational explanation without divine revelation. This intellectual humility recognizes that finite minds cannot comprehend infinite wisdom (Isaiah 55:8-9). Resolution requires not just thinking but spiritual understanding in God's presence (verse 17).

Historical Context

Job's counselors tried to explain his suffering rationally and failed. Only God's self-revelation from the whirlwind (Job 38-41) resolved Job's crisis—not through logical explanation but through encounter with divine mystery and sovereignty.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What theological questions have you found 'too painful' to resolve through reason alone?
2. How do you balance using your mind to understand God while recognizing His ways surpass human comprehension?
3. What role does humble submission to mystery play in mature faith?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶחָשְׁבָה	לֵדַעַת	זֶאת	עָמַל	הַיָּא	בְּעֵינָי:
When I thought	to know	H2063	this it was too painful	H1931	for me
H2803	H3045		H5999		H5869

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 8:17 (Parallel theme): Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.