

Psalms 73:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

Analysis

The psalmist confesses: 'Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.' The emotional turmoil ('grieved') and visceral pain ('pricked in my reins'—kidneys, seat of deepest feelings) describe the agony of his theological crisis. Doubting God's justice caused profound internal suffering. This validates that spiritual struggles affect us emotionally and physically. Yet this pain drove him to God's sanctuary for answers, making the grief productive rather than destructive.

Historical Context

Throughout Scripture, spiritual crises manifest physically—Job's sores, Jeremiah's weeping, Paul's thorn. The integration of body, mind, and spirit means theological struggles impact whole persons, not just intellects.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do theological doubts and spiritual crises affect you emotionally and physically?

2. What role does grief play in driving you toward God for resolution rather than away from Him?
3. How can you support others whose spiritual struggles manifest in emotional or physical symptoms?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר-זָהָב	וְיָתַר	לְבָבִי	וְכָלִיתִי	וְאַתְּפָעָז
H3588	was grieved	Thus my heart	in my reins	and I was pricked

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:7 (Parallel theme): Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Job 16:13 (Parallel theme): His archers compass me round about, he cleaveth my reins asunder, and doth not spare; he poureth out my gall upon the ground.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org