

Psalms 74:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Why withdrawest thou thy hand, even thy right hand? pluck it out of thy bosom.

Analysis

The psalmist pleads urgently: "Why withdrawest thou thy hand, even thy right hand? pluck it out of thy bosom" (Hebrew lammah tashiv yad-kha vi-minekha mi-qerev cheyk-kha kalleh). The "right hand" symbolizes power and action. God's hand "in His bosom" pictures inactivity, withholding help. "Pluck it out" urges God to act decisively. The verse voices frustration at divine inaction—not irreverent doubt but honest wrestling. Faith can protest to God while maintaining trust.

Historical Context

The "right hand" metaphor appears throughout Scripture for God's saving power (Exodus 15:6, Psalm 77:10, Isaiah 41:10). Its withdrawal indicates judgment or testing. Yet God's hand is never truly inactive—His delays serve purposes. Isaiah 64:12 asks similarly: "Will you restrain yourself at these things, O LORD?" Jesus experienced divine "withdrawal" on the cross (Matthew 27:46), showing God enters our abandonment.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can you express honest frustration with God's timing while maintaining trust in His character?
2. What purposes might God's "withdrawn hand" serve in developing mature faith?
3. How does Christ's experience of God-forsakenness on the cross validate and redeem your experiences of divine absence?

Interlinear Text

לָמָּה	תִּשָּׁב יָדְךָ	יָדְךָ	וְיָמִינְךָ	מִקֵּץ רֶכֶב	חִזְקֶךָ
H4100	Why withdrawest	thou thy hand	even thy right hand	it out of	thy bosom
	H7725	H3027	H3225	H7130	H2436
כָּלָה:					
pluck					
H3615					

Additional Cross-References

Lamentations 2:3 (Parallel theme): He hath cut off in his fierce anger all the horn of Israel: he hath drawn back his right hand from before the enemy, and he burned against Jacob like a flaming fire, which devoureth round about.