

Psalm 74:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long.

Analysis

The lament continues: "We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long" (Hebrew ototenu lo ra-inu eyn-od navi v-lo-ittanu yodea ad-meh). Three tragic losses: "our signs" (God's confirming miracles), prophets (God's spokesmen), and knowledge of duration. The verse captures spiritual famine—no word from God, no guidance, no timeline. This amplifies suffering: not knowing when deliverance will come tests faith maximally.

Historical Context

During exile, prophetic activity diminished (Lamentations 2:9, Ezekiel 7:26). Amos 8:11-12 warned of "famine...of hearing the words of the LORD." The seventy-year exile (Jeremiah 25:11-12, 29:10) provided timeline, yet feeling abandoned persisted. The intertestamental period (400 years) similarly lacked prophets. Jesus's arrival broke silence (John 1:14, Hebrews 1:1-2). The New Testament warns against false prophets while promising the Spirit's teaching (John 14:26).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you respond to seasons when God seems to give no "signs" or clear guidance?
2. What sustains faith when you don't know "how long" trials will last?
3. How does Christ as the Word made flesh (John 1:14) and the Spirit's indwelling end the famine of God's word?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה יְהוָה יְהוָה not our signs	H3808	וְאֵין יָד We see	H369	לֹא יְדַע H5750	תִּבְאַל there is no more any prophet	H3808
אַתָּה יְהוָה יְהוָה H226		וְאֵין יָד H7200		לֹא יְדַע H5030		

Additional Cross-References

Amos 8:11 (Parallel theme): Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

1 Samuel 3:1 (Parallel theme): And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

Exodus 12:13 (Parallel theme): And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Ezekiel 7:26 (Prophecy): Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients.

