

Psalms 77:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted.

Analysis

In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord (בְּיוֹם צָרָתִי אֶדְרְשֵׁהוּ)—the Hebrew *darash* (דָּרַשׁ) means to seek earnestly, inquire, or pursue with intensity. This is not casual prayer but desperate pursuit. The phrase **my sore ran in the night, and ceased not** (לֹא יָלָה בְּגִזְרִי) literally reads "my hand [was stretched out] in the night, dripping/flowing"—a vivid image of unceasing prayer with tears or upheld hands in supplication that never lowered.

My soul refused to be comforted (וְנִתְמָאן הַנְּפֹשִׁי) uses *ma'en* (refuse, be unwilling) with *nacham* (to comfort, console). The psalmist experienced inconsolable grief—a state where even legitimate attempts at comfort fail to penetrate. This radical honesty about spiritual desolation appears throughout the Psalms, validating the experience of believers who cry out to God yet find no immediate relief. The dark night of the soul precedes dawn.

Historical Context

Asaph served as one of David's chief musicians and psalmists (1 Chronicles 16:4-7). The superscription "To Jeduthun" likely indicates the musical guild responsible for performing this lament. The psalm reflects either personal crisis or national catastrophe—possibly the Assyrian invasion or Babylonian exile. The night-long prayer vigil was common in Israelite worship (Psalms 6:6, 42:8, 63:6), demonstrating persistent faith even in darkness.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the Hebrew word *darash* (earnest seeking) challenge superficial prayer habits?
2. What does inconsolable grief teach about the limits of human comfort and the necessity of divine intervention?
3. How does Christ's Gethsemane experience (Luke 22:44) parallel this night of anguish and persistent prayer?

Interlinear Text

בְּיּוֹם	צָרָתִי	אֲדֹנָי	דָּכָה שְׁתִּי	יָד יָא	לַיְלָה	נָרָה
In the day	of my trouble	the Lord	I sought	my sore	in the night	ran
H3117	H6869	H136	H1875	H3027	H3915	H5064
וְלֹא	תָפַח	מֵאֲנָה	הֵנִיחַ	נַפְשִׁי:		
H3808	and ceased	refused	to be comforted	not my soul		
	H6313	H3985	H5162	H5315		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 50:15 (Parallel theme): And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Genesis 37:35 (Parallel theme): And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

Isaiah 26:9 (Parallel theme): With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

Isaiah 26:16 (References Lord): LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them.

Hebrews 5:7 (Parallel theme): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Jeremiah 31:15 (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

Psalms 86:7 (Parallel theme): In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.

Psalms 63:6 (Parallel theme): When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.

Psalms 18:6 (References Lord): In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

Job 11:13 (Parallel theme): If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him;