

# Psalms 88:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me; thou hast made me an abomination unto them: I am shut up, and I cannot come forth.

## Analysis

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**Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me**—God is the active agent of social isolation. The Hebrew "put away" (הִרְחַקְתָּ, hirschakta) means to cause to be far, to distance. This isn't paranoia but theological interpretation: the psalmist traces even human rejection back to divine providence. **Thou hast made me an abomination unto them** (שִׁמְתָנִי תוֹעֲבוֹת לָמוֹ, simtani toevot lamo)—"Abomination" (toevah) is the same word used for detestable idolatry; the sufferer has become repulsive, ceremonially unclean, avoided by others.

**I am shut up, and I cannot come forth** (כָּלָא וְלֹא אֵצֶחַ, kalu velo etzeh)—Imprisoned, perhaps by illness, depression, or social ostracism, with no means of escape. This total entrapment echoes Job's complaint (Job 19:8) and anticipates Christ's burial—"shut up" in a sealed tomb with a guard posted. Yet Christ's resurrection breaks open every prison, every sealed tomb.

## Historical Context

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In ancient Israel, serious illness often led to quarantine from the community (Leviticus 13-14). Physical affliction meant social and religious exclusion—unable to enter the temple, separated from family and friends. This separation from the worshiping community was experienced as separation from God's presence, since His presence was located at the sanctuary.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. When social isolation accompanies suffering, how do you avoid the temptation to blame only circumstances or people rather than acknowledging God's sovereignty?
2. How does Christ's experience of being "shut up" in the tomb provide hope when you feel trapped with no way out?
3. What ministry might God be calling you to toward those who feel like "abominations"—rejected and isolated?

## Interlinear Text

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| הָרַחֵם קִרָּה            | מִיֵּדַעִי               | מִמִּנִּי                     | שָׁתַּנִּי                    |                                |
| <b>Thou hast put away</b> | <b>mine acquaintance</b> | H4480                         | <b>from me thou hast made</b> |                                |
| H7368                     | H3045                    |                               | H7896                         |                                |
| תֹּעֵב וְאֵת              | לִּי מִן                 | כָּלֵלֵם                      | וְלִי אֵל                     | אֶצְאֵה                        |
| <b>me an abomination</b>  | H0                       | <b>unto them I am shut up</b> | H3808                         | <b>and I cannot come forth</b> |
| H8441                     |                          | H3607                         |                               | H3318                          |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 31:11** (Parallel theme): I was a reproach among all mine enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and a fear to mine acquaintance: they that did see me without fled from me.

**Isaiah 49:7** (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

**Jeremiah 32:2** (Parallel theme): For then the king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah's house.

**Zechariah 11:8** (Parallel theme): Three shepherds also I cut off in one month; and my soul lothed them, and their soul also abhorred me.