

Psalms 88:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction: LORD, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched out my hands unto thee.

Analysis

Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction (דַּאָוָה מִנִּי עֵינִי, daavah minni eyni)—The eye grows dim, fails, languishes from weeping and suffering. Physical symptom mirrors inner anguish. Yet notice the steadfast persistence: **LORD, I have called daily upon thee** (קִרְאתִיךָ יְהוָה בְּכָל-יוֹם, keratikha YHWH bekhoh-yom)—The covenant name YHWH appears, affirming relationship despite feeling abandoned. "Daily" emphasizes unrelenting faithfulness in prayer despite apparent divine silence.

I have stretched out my hands unto thee (שִׁטַּחְתִּי אֵלֶיךָ כַּפֵּי, shitachti eleikha khapai)—Hands extended in supplication, the universal gesture of desperate need. Spreading out the palms signifies total vulnerability and dependence. This posture anticipates Christ on the cross, hands stretched out in the ultimate prayer of abandonment and trust—"Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46).

Historical Context

Daily prayer was central to Jewish piety, reflected in the Shema's call to constant devotion (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) and later formalized in the temple's morning and evening sacrifices. The psalmist maintains this discipline even when prayer seems futile—a model of persistent faith that Jesus commended in His teaching on prayer (Luke 18:1-8).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain daily prayer when God seems silent day after day?
2. What does it mean to continue using God's covenant name (LORD/YHWH) even when feeling abandoned by Him?
3. How might your continued "stretching out of hands" in prayer be an act of faith even when you receive no apparent answer?

Interlinear Text

עֵינַי י	מִנֵּי י	עַל נִי	קָרָאתִי יְיָ	יְהוָה ה	בְּכָל
Mine eye	mourneth	by reason of affliction	I have called	LORD	
H5869	H1669	H4480	H6040	H7121	H3605
יּוֹם	שָׁטַח יָדַי	אֵל יְיָ	כַּפָּי:		
daily	upon thee I have stretched out		my hands		
H3117	H7849	H413	H3709		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 86:3 (References Lord): Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily.

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

Psalms 143:6 (Parallel theme): I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah.

Psalms 38:10 (Parallel theme): My heart panteth, my strength faileth me: as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me.

