

Psalms 89:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The days of his youth hast thou shortened: thou hast covered him with shame. Selah.

Analysis

The days of his youth hast thou shortened הַקְצָרָת יְמֵי עָלֹמָיו (hiqtzarta yemei alumav)—qatzar means to cut short, curtail. Alumim (youth, vigor) represents strength and potential. The king who should reign decades is cut down prematurely. **Thou hast covered him with shame. Selah** הָעֲטִימָת עַלְיוֹ בָּוּשָׁה סֶלָה (he'etita alav bushah selah)—'atah means to wrap, envelop, cover as with a garment. Bushah (shame, disgrace) replaces the royal robe. "Selah" signals a pause for meditation on this tragic reversal.

Josiah died young at 39 (2 Kings 23:29), Jehoiachin was exiled at 18 (2 Kings 24:8), Zedekiah blinded and imprisoned at approximately 32 (2 Kings 25:7). Shortened reigns characterized Judah's final kings—divine judgment truncated their days. Yet ultimate fulfillment appears in Christ, whose public ministry lasted only three years, cut short at approximately 33. He was "covered with shame" (Isaiah 53:3: "despised and rejected"), yet that shame-covering accomplished salvation. His "shortened" earthly life purchased eternal life for believers. The ultimate reversal: shame became glory (Philippians 2:8-11).

Historical Context

The final Judean kings reigned briefly: Jehoahaz (3 months), Jehoiachin (3 months), Zedekiah (11 years ending in capture). Contrast David (40 years) and Solomon (40 years). The dynasty's rapid collapse fulfilled prophetic warnings. Jeremiah

ministered during this period, watching kings rise and fall in shame. The Babylonian Chronicle confirms these rapid depositions.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. When has God "shortened" something you expected to last longer (career, relationship, ministry)? What purpose did the truncation serve?
2. How does Christ being "covered with shame" (mocked, stripped, crucified) enable believers to be clothed with His righteousness?
3. What does "Selah" (pause, reflect) invite you to meditate on regarding God's purposes in cutting short earthly glory?

Interlinear Text

הָקָרְתָּה	יְמִים	עַלְמָם	תִּתְעַטְּתָ	עַל
hast thou shortened	The days	of his youth	thou hast covered	H5921
H7114	H3117	H5934	H5844	
בָּוֶשׁ	סֶלָה			
him with shame	Selah			
H955	H5542			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 109:29 (Parallel theme): Let mine adversaries be clothed with shame, and let them cover themselves with their own confusion, as with a mantle.

Psalms 44:15 (Parallel theme): My confusion is continually before me, and the shame of my face hath covered me,

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