Suffering and Sin: Interpretations of Illness in the Individual Complaint Psalms


Abstract
The intention of this study is to question the supposed self-evident connection between sickness and sin in the individual complaint psalms. On the basis of a careful analysis of the psalms which contain the three motifs divine absence, divine wrath, and man’s guilt, the author problematizes this aspect of the exegetical literature’s widespread interpretation of the theological dimension of illness. As an alternative, the understanding of life which characterizes these psalms is brought to the fore. The individual’s relationship to God is not understood in light of the categories guilt and innocence, but rather in relation to YHWH’s freely given gifts of existence by which the threatened person is received into the saving presence of God.... (More)

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Patients illustrate their burden of suffering by the distance from a “self” to an illness circle, whereby a shorter distance indicates a higher burden of suffering. Overall, the burden of suffering measured with PRISM seems to reflect an individual’s well-being in the context of illness [25]. Therefore, PRISM seems to be a reliable, feasible and useful tool in the assessment of illness [25]. In addition to the investigation of the correlation between the burden of suffering and tinnitus severity, we divided the results of the burden of suffering (SIS) into three different PRISM groups (representing the different levels of tinnitus severity) to make it easier for the investigator to interpret the results in a short time. SSW contributed to the interpretation of data and revised the drafted paper.