

Job 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:

Analysis

The Sabeans' raid demonstrates that human wickedness serves as the immediate cause while God remains the ultimate sovereign. The messenger's survival to report the news follows the pattern throughout this chapter—one witness remains to multiply Job's grief. This reveals how God ordains even the manner in which trials come, ensuring Job receives full knowledge of his losses while preventing any immediate verification or false hope.

Historical Context

The Sabeans (from Sheba in Arabia) were known traders who occasionally conducted raids. Their attack on Job's agricultural wealth was both strategic and devastating, targeting oxen and donkeys essential for farming.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when human evil brings suffering into your life?
2. What purpose might God have in ensuring we fully understand our losses?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| וְמַלְאָךְ | בְּ אֶל | אֵי וּבְ | וְיַאֲמֵר | פֶּבְקָר | פִּי 1 |
| a messenger | And there came | H413 | unto Job | and said | The oxen |
| H4397 | H935 | | H347 | H559 | H1241 |
| וְחַרְשׁ וְתַ | עַל רֵעַ וְתַ | וְתַאֲתֵּן וְתַ | יְדִיכֶם: | | |
| were plowing | and the asses | feeding | H5921 | beside | |
| H2790 | H860 | H7462 | | H3027 | |

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