

Job 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said,
Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in
their eldest brother's house:

Analysis

The repetitive phrase 'and I only am escaped alone to tell thee' occurs four times (verses 15-19), creating a literary pattern that emphasizes Job's complete awareness of his losses. Each messenger's survival serves God's purpose of ensuring Job knows the full extent of his trial without false hope. This demonstrates God's comprehensive orchestration even of the manner in which suffering comes to His people.

Historical Context

The survivor motif appears throughout biblical narratives as a means of testimony and witness. Here it serves both to multiply Job's grief and to ensure the events are properly documented for future generations.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does knowing the full extent of your trials affect your ability to trust God?
2. What purpose might God have in ensuring we don't remain ignorant of our losses?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּאמֵר רַבָּבָה רַבָּבָה
H5750 H2088 While he was yet speaking H2088 there came also another and said
H1696 H935 H559

אֶחָיו מִבְּבֵית יְהוָה וְבָנֹת יְהוָה אֲכָלִים וְשַׁתִּים וְבָנֹת יְהוָה בְּבֵית יְהוָה
H1121 H1323 H398 H8354 H3196 H1004 H251

בְּבֵית יְהוָה
H1060

Additional Cross-References

Job 1:4 (Parallel theme): And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.

Job 1:13 (Kingdom): And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: