

Job 10:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A land of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death, without any order, and where the light is as darkness.

Analysis

Job concludes with darkness imagery: 'A land of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death, without any order, and where the light is as darkness.' The repetition intensifies: 'darkness... as darkness itself' (choshek kemo opel, חֹשֶׁךְ כְּמוֹ אוֹר). 'Without any order' (lo sedarim, לֹא סֵדָרִים) suggests chaos, formlessness. Even light there 'is as darkness' (yopia kemo-opel, יוֹפִיַע כְּמוֹ-אוֹר)—any illumination is swallowed by prevailing darkness.

Job's description inverts creation: God created light from darkness, order from chaos (Genesis 1:2-5). Sheol represents de-creation—return to primordial chaos and darkness. Job envisions death as entering realm where creation's goodness is reversed. Light doesn't dispel darkness there; darkness consumes light. Order doesn't structure existence; chaos reigns.

Revelation inverts Job's vision: the New Jerusalem has no night, and God's glory provides perpetual light (Revelation 21:23-25, 22:5). Where Job sees death leading to permanent darkness, resurrection leads to eternal light. The formless chaos Job dreads gives way to new creation's perfect order. Christ transforms death's destination from darkness to glory.

Historical Context

Ancient cosmologies often associated the underworld with chaos and darkness—the opposite of ordered, illuminated creation. Job's description borrows these

cultural concepts while maintaining monotheism—Sheol isn't rival realm but the grave's dark reality. Christ's resurrection conquers this darkness.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the New Jerusalem's perpetual light answer Job's vision of death as permanent darkness?
2. What does Job's description of chaos in death teach about resurrection's restoration of order?
3. In what ways does Christ's resurrection represent new creation that reverses death's de-creation?

Interlinear Text

אֶרֶץ	עֵיפָּ תְהִי	כִּמּוֹ	אֶפְלָ:	צֶלְמִוֶת	וְלֵא
A land	of darkness	H3644	as darkness	itself and of the shadow of death	H3808
H776	H5890		H652	H6757	
סֵדֶר יִם	וְתַּ פֶּעַ	כִּמּוֹ	אֶפְלָ:		
without any order	and where the light	H3644	as darkness		
H5468	H3313		H652		

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