

Job 11:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning.

Analysis

Zophar's promises escalate: Job's 'age' (עָלָם, cheled—life, world) shall be 'clearer than noonday' (מִצְהָרַיִם, mi-tzahorayim), he shall 'shine forth' (תִּשְׁפָּח, ta'ufah—fly up, shine), becoming 'as the morning' (כַּבֹּקֶר, kaboqer). The imagery moves from darkness to increasing light—noonday clarity, shining, dawn's brightness. This echoes biblical promises of restoration (Psalm 37:6, Proverbs 4:18). The language is beautiful and theologically sound for describing ultimate redemption. Zophar's error is offering guaranteed immediate application contingent on Job's repentance. He peddles false hope based on presumed diagnosis. True hope rests on God's character, not our complete understanding of circumstances.

Historical Context

Light and darkness metaphors were central to ancient Near Eastern thought. Zophar's promise of increasing light would resonate as a return to divine favor and blessing, the reversal of Job's dark night.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do we offer hope without making false promises about God's timeline?
2. What is the difference between biblical hope and optimistic presumption?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶצְהָרִים	יָקֵן וְ	וְלֵךְ	תִּשָּׁאֵר
than the noonday	shall be clearer	And thine age	thou shalt shine forth
H6672	H6965	H2465	H5774
כִּבְּקָר	תִּהְיֶה:		
thou shalt be as the morning	H1961		
H1242			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:6 (Parallel theme): And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

Proverbs 4:18 (Parallel theme): But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Hosea 6:3 (Parallel theme): Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.