

Job 12:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

Analysis

Job affirms 'In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind' - acknowledging God's absolute sovereignty over life and death. Even in complaint, Job maintains orthodox theology. This combination of lament and orthodoxy models faith that questions circumstances without denying truth.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern creation accounts attributed life to various deities, but Job affirms monotheistic sovereignty. The parallel 'soul/breath' structure emphasizes totality of divine control.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain theological orthodoxy while questioning God's providence?
2. What's the difference between questioning God's ways and denying His sovereignty?

Interlinear Text

בְּ יָדָךְ אֲשֶׁר
H834 In whose hand H3027

כַּל נַפְשׁוֹ
H3605 is the soul H5315

כָּל־יֶתֶן
H3605 of every living thing H2416

כָּל־רוּחַ
H3605 and the breath H7307

בָּשָׂר אִישׁ:
H1320 of all mankind H376

Additional Cross-References

Acts 17:28 (Parallel theme): For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

Job 33:4 (Parallel theme): The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

Numbers 16:22 (Parallel theme): And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?

Acts 17:25 (Parallel theme): Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

Job 27:3 (Parallel theme): All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;

Psalms 104:29 (Parallel theme): Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

Daniel 5:23 (Parallel theme): But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

Genesis 2:7 (Parallel theme): And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

John 3:6 (Parallel theme): That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Genesis 6:17 (Parallel theme): And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

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