

Job 12:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, he breaketh down, and it cannot be built again: he shutteth up a man, and there can be no opening.

Analysis

Job describes God's absolute power: 'Behold, he breaketh down, and it cannot be built again: he shutteth up a man, and there can be no opening.' This recognition of divine sovereignty that can seem arbitrary and destructive leads Job toward submission, though not yet acceptance.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern building and imprisonment imagery depicts both human activity and divine power. Job uses these metaphors to describe God's irreversible decrees, anticipating his eventual submission (42:2).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you submit to God's sovereignty when His decrees seem destructive?

2. What comfort exists in divine power that seems arbitrary?

Interlinear Text

רָשַׁב רִבְבָּשׁ אַל הַבָּנֶה אַל אַל כְּבָדָה!

H2005 Behold he breaketh down H2040 H3808 and it cannot be built again H1129 H5462 he shutteth up

עַל אַל אַל שְׁפָתָחַ!

H5921 a man H376 H3808 and there can be no opening H6605

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 3:7 (Parallel theme): And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Isaiah 22:22 (Parallel theme): And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

Malachi 1:4 (Parallel theme): Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever.

Job 11:10 (Parallel theme): If he cut off, and shut up, or gather together, then who can hinder him?

Job 37:7 (Parallel theme): He sealeth up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work.

Job 19:10 (Parallel theme): He hath destroyed me on every side, and I am gone: and mine hope hath he removed like a tree.

Job 16:11 (Parallel theme): God hath delivered me to the ungodly, and turned me over into the hands of the wicked.

Jeremiah 51:58 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the people shall labour in vain, and the folk in the fire, and they shall be weary.

1 Samuel 26:8 (Parallel theme): Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.

1 Samuel 17:46 (Parallel theme): This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcases of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

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