

Job 12:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He leadeth princes away spoiled, and overthroweth the mighty.

Analysis

God leads priests away as prisoners and overthrows the mighty. The Hebrew 'kohen' (priest) represented sacred authority, while 'ethan' (mighty/established ones) denoted those with long-standing power. Job asserts that even religious and entrenched authorities fall under God's sovereign judgment. This anticipates God's rebuke of Job's friends—religious professionals who misrepresented divine truth—and warns against presuming that position guarantees theological correctness.

Historical Context

The exile of priests occurred repeatedly in Israel's history, most notably in Babylon's conquest. Ancient Near Eastern cultures viewed priests as mediators with immutable religious authority, yet Israel's history showed God judging even His own priesthood when they failed in faithfulness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's judgment of religious authorities warn against blind trust in human leadership?
2. What distinguishes legitimate spiritual authority from mere religious position?
3. How can church leaders guard against the presumption that position equals divine approval?

Interlinear Text

מֹלְ יֵר	כְּהֵנִי יָם	שׁוֹלֵ ל	וְאַתָּנִ יָם	יִסְלֶף:
H1980	princes	away spoiled	the mighty	and overthroweth
	H3548	H7758	H386	H5557

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