

Job 13:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Shall not his excellency make you afraid? and his dread fall upon you?

Analysis

Shall not his excellency make you afraid? (בְּלֹא שְׁאֹתָן תִּבְאַת אֶתְכֶם, halo se'eto teva'et etkhem)—Se'eto (his majesty/excellency/rising up) conveys God's transcendent glory. Teva'et means 'terrify, make suddenly afraid.' Job argues that true fear of God should silence glib explanations of divine providence.

And his dread fall upon you? (וְפִקְדֹּן יִפְלֹא עֲלֵיכֶם) —Pakhdo (his terror/dread) appears throughout Job (e.g., 9:34, 13:21) as the overwhelming weight of God's presence. Job contends that his friends' casual theology betrays they've never truly encountered the terrifying holiness they claim to defend. This echoes Isaiah's experience (Isaiah 6:5) and anticipates God's whirlwind speech (Job 38-41).

Historical Context

Ancient Israelite worship emphasized God's transcendence and holiness (Exodus 19:16-25, 1 Samuel 6:19-20). Job's friends treated theology as an intellectual exercise; Job insists authentic God-knowledge produces awe and reverence, not confident explanations of suffering.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Has your understanding of God's holiness made you more cautious about explaining others' suffering?
2. In what ways does modern theology sometimes lack the 'terror' and 'dread' of God's excellency?
3. How can we balance speaking truthfully about God with appropriate fear and trembling?

Interlinear Text

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Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:120 (Parallel theme): My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.

Job 31:23 (Parallel theme): For destruction from God was a terror to me, and by reason of his highness I could not endure.