

Job 13:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro? and wilt thou pursue the dry stubble?

Analysis

Job feels God treats him like insignificant refuse: 'Wilt thou break a leaf driven to and fro? and wilt thou pursue the dry stubble?' The imagery emphasizes Job's utter helplessness—he's as powerless as windblown leaves or dried stubble. Yet God seems to pursue him with overwhelming force. The contrast is stark: God's infinite power versus Job's complete weakness. Job can't understand why divine omnipotence would crush something so fragile.

Historical Context

Dry leaves and stubble were proverbial images for the helpless and worthless (Isaiah 40:24, Psalm 1:4). In arid Palestine, wind easily scattered such lightweight materials. Job applies this image to emphasize his powerlessness before divine might.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing our frailty before God's power produce humility rather than despair?
2. When have you felt crushed by circumstances that seemed disproportionate to your strength?
3. What comfort comes from knowing that God is aware of our weakness and doesn't judge beyond what we can bear?

Interlinear Text

הַעֵלָה	נִדְרָה	תִּפְּרֹץ	וְאֵת	קַשְׁ	יָבֹשׁ
a leaf	driven to and fro	Wilt thou break	H853	stubble	the dry
H5929	H5086	H6206		H7179	H3002

וְתִרְדָּף:
and wilt thou pursue
H7291

Additional Cross-References

Job 21:18 (Parallel theme): They are as stubble before the wind, and as chaff that the storm carrieth away.

Leviticus 26:36 (Parallel theme): And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth.