

Job 13:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he, as a rotten thing, consumeth, as a garment that is moth eaten.

Analysis

Job describes God's marking of boundaries he cannot cross: 'Thou settest a print upon the heels of my feet.' The imagery suggests God has drawn a circle around Job, limiting where he can go. This develops the stocks metaphor—Job is confined, unable to escape his suffering. Yet theologically, this also points to divine sovereignty setting boundaries for suffering (as seen in Job 1-2, where God limited Satan's actions). Though Job doesn't see it, God's boundaries protect even in suffering.

Historical Context

Boundary markers were significant in ancient Near Eastern law and custom (Deuteronomy 19:14, Proverbs 22:28). Setting boundaries represented establishing authority and limits. Job experiences God's sovereign boundaries as constraining, not yet recognizing their protective purpose.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do God's boundaries in our lives simultaneously limit and protect us?
2. When have you experienced God's constraints that you later recognized as grace?
3. What does it mean that God sets limits even on the suffering He permits?

Interlinear Text

וְהוּא	כְּרֹקַח ב	יִבֹּל ה	כְּכִדְמוֹת	אָכַל לוֹ	עֵשׂ:
H1931	And he as a rotten thing	consumeth	as a garment	eaten	that is moth
	H7538	H1086	H899	H398	H6211

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 39:11 (Parallel theme): When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Selah.

Job 4:19 (Parallel theme): How much less in them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth?