

Job 14:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;

Analysis

'Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass.' Job affirms divine sovereignty over lifespan: days are 'determined' (חֲרוּצִים, charutsim—decided, decreed), months numbered, 'bounds' (חֻק, chuq—statute, limit) 'appointed' (עָשָׂה, asita—made). This echoes Psalm 139:16 and Acts 17:26. If God sovereignly determines our days, why judge us for sins committed in that predetermined timeframe? Job isn't denying human responsibility but highlighting the mystery of divine sovereignty and human accountability coexisting. The Reformed tradition embraces this mystery (Westminster Confession 3.1), affirming both without explaining how they fit together.

Historical Context

Ancient peoples recognized life's brevity and generally attributed it to divine control. Job here uses this common belief to question God's justice in strictly judging creatures whose days God Himself limited.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do divine sovereignty over our days and divine judgment of our deeds relate?
2. What comfort exists in knowing God has appointed our bounds?

Interlinear Text

אֶם	חֲרוּצֵי יָמַי	יָמַי	מִסְפַּר	חֳדָשַׁי	אֶתְךָ	חֲזָקָתִי
Seeing	are determined	his days	the number	of his months	H854	his bounds
H518	H2782	H3117	H4557	H2320		H2706
עִמָּךְ שְׂיִתְּ			וְלֹא אֶ	יַעֲבֹר:		
are with thee thou hast appointed			H3808	that he cannot pass		
H6213				H5674		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 39:4 (Parallel theme): LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.

Acts 17:26 (Parallel theme): And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

Hebrews 9:27 (Parallel theme): And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Job 12:10 (Parallel theme): In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

Psalms 104:29 (Parallel theme): Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

Job 21:21 (Parallel theme): For what pleasure hath he in his house after him, when the number of his months is cut off in the midst?

Luke 12:20 (Parallel theme): But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Daniel 5:26 (Parallel theme): This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

Psalms 104:9 (Parallel theme): Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

Job 7:1 (Parallel theme): Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling?

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