

Job 14:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish, as an hireling, his day.

Analysis

Turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish, as an hireling, his day. Job pleads for God to grant human beings respite, using the metaphor of a hired laborer. The Hebrew shaah (שָׁאַח, "turn from") means to look away, avert one's gaze—Job asks God to stop scrutinizing humanity's sins so intensely. "That he may rest" (veyechdal, וַיֵּחָדַל) employs a verb meaning cease, desist, find relief from labor or trouble.

"Till he shall accomplish" (ad-ritzsoto, אֶדְ-רִיצְסוֹתוֹ) means "until he delights in" or "until he completes"—suggesting finding satisfaction or pleasure in completing work. "As an hireling" (ke-sakhir, כְּשָׂכִיר) refers to a day laborer who works for wages and eagerly anticipates quitting time. "His day" (yomo, יוֹמוֹ) means his appointed time, his allotted work period.

Job's plea reveals profound weariness under God's sovereign scrutiny. He compares human life to hired labor—toil under a master's watchful eye, longing for release when the workday ends. This isn't rebellion but exhausted honest prayer, expressing what many feel but fear to voice. Job's theology recognizes God's right to examine and judge, yet pleads for temporary mercy within human finitude. The passage anticipates Christ who grants true rest to the weary and heavy-laden (Matthew 11:28), accomplishing our work through His finished work.

Historical Context

Job likely lived during the patriarchal period (2000-1800 BC) based on lifestyle details, lifespan, and absence of Mosaic Law references. The book addresses timeless questions about suffering, divine justice, and human meaning when the righteous suffer inexplicably. Ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature from Egypt and Mesopotamia explored similar themes, but Job's monotheistic framework and theodicy are unique.

The cultural context of day laborers provides Job's metaphor power. In ancient economies, most people survived through daily manual labor with minimal security. A hireling worked sunrise to sunset under an employer's supervision, earning just enough for that day's needs (Matthew 20:1-16). The anticipated evening rest represented blessed relief from toil, poverty, and oversight.

Job's friends had applied retribution theology—suffering proves sin, prosperity proves righteousness. Job's speeches refute this simplistic formula while maintaining God's sovereignty. His appeal for God to "turn away" doesn't deny divine justice but requests temporary relief, acknowledging human frailty. Early church fathers saw Job as pre-figuring Christ's innocent suffering and patient endurance. The Septuagint and later rabbinic interpretations emphasized Job's faithfulness under trial as exemplary piety, though the book ultimately points beyond human righteousness to God's inscrutable wisdom.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Job's honest complaint before God model authentic prayer versus superficial piety?

2. What does this passage teach about human finitude and our need for divine mercy?
3. How do we balance acknowledging God's sovereignty with pleading for relief from suffering?
4. In what ways does Christ fulfill Job's longing for rest from labor and divine scrutiny?
5. Why does God permit His people to experience weariness that makes them long for escape?

Interlinear Text

מַעַל יוֹ שָׁעָה	וַיָּחֵד ל	עַד	! הֲרָץ ה
Turn	from him that he may rest		till he shall accomplish
H8159	H2308	H5704	H7521

כְּשָׂכִיר	יוֹמוֹ:
as an hireling	his day
H7916	H3117

Additional Cross-References

Job 7:19 (Parallel theme): How long wilt thou not depart from me, nor let me alone till I swallow down my spittle?

Psalms 39:13 (Parallel theme): O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.