

Job 15:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He believeth not that he shall return out of darkness, and he is waited for of the sword.

Analysis

The wicked expect doom: 'He believeth not that he shall return out of darkness, and he is waited for of the sword.' Lack of hope characterizes the wicked—they don't expect to escape their dark circumstances. The sword 'waiting for' them suggests inevitable judgment. Eliphaz implies Job's despair indicates wickedness. But righteous sufferers in Scripture often express hopelessness (Psalms, Lamentations) without indicating guilt—despair can arise from suffering, not necessarily sin.

Historical Context

The image of the sword waiting captures ancient Israel's experience of judgment and warfare. Prophets often used sword imagery for divine judgment (Ezekiel, Jeremiah), creating theological association between doom and divine displeasure.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do we distinguish despair from sin versus despair from circumstance or depression?
2. What biblical figures experienced hopelessness without it indicating hidden guilt?
3. How does pastoral care differ when addressing guilt-based despair versus circumstantial grief?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר יְהוָה
H3808 **He believeth** not that he shall return
H539

שְׁאֵלָה
H7725

מִתְּנִיחַ
H4480 **out of darkness**
H2822

חַשְׁמָנָה
H6822 **and he is waited**

אֵל הַזָּה
H1931

כַּרְבָּן
H413 **for of the sword**
H2719

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