

# 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

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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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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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

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|          |              |                          |        |                 |                  |
|----------|--------------|--------------------------|--------|-----------------|------------------|
| לֹא      | יֵאֱמָר יוֹ  | שׁ וְב                   | מִנִּי | חַ שְׁךְ        | וְצָפָה וְ       |
| H3808    | He believeth | not that he shall return | H4480  | out of darkness | and he is waited |
|          | H539         | H7725                    |        | H2822           | H6822            |
| וְאֵלֶּה | הַ           | חֶרֶב:                   |        |                 |                  |
| H1931    | H413         | for of the sword         |        |                 |                  |
|          |              | H2719                    |        |                 |                  |

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