

Job 15:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He wandereth abroad for bread, saying, Where is it? he knoweth that the day of darkness is ready at his hand.

Analysis

The wicked wander seeking bread: 'He wandereth abroad for bread, saying, Where is it? he knoweth that the day of darkness is ready at his hand.' Eliphaz describes restless anxiety and deprivation. The wicked suffer hunger and know judgment approaches. This describes real consequences of sin and divine judgment. However, Eliphaz's application to Job fails—Job's suffering doesn't fit this description (he was generous, not grasping), yet Eliphaz forces Job's experience into his theological framework.

Historical Context

Begging for bread represented extreme destitution in ancient economies. Wandering without stable food sources indicated covenant curse (Deuteronomy 28:15-68), creating theological connection between poverty and divine judgment.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do we acknowledge that sin has real consequences without assuming all deprivation indicates wickedness?
2. What biblical examples show the righteous experiencing poverty or hunger without indicating divine displeasure?
3. How should we respond to economic suffering—both our own and others'?

Interlinear Text

נָדַד	אֵין	לֹא	לְלֹא	נָדַד	יֹאמֵן	כִּי
He wandereth abroad	H1931	for bread	H346	saying Where is it he knoweth	H3045	H3588
H5074		H3899				
בָּיִד	בָּיִד	יֹמָם	חֹשֶׁךְ			
is ready	at his hand	that the day	of darkness			
H3559	H3027	H3117	H2822			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 109:10 (Parallel theme): Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg: let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places.

Psalms 59:15 (Parallel theme): Let them wander up and down for meat, and grudge if they be not satisfied.

Job 18:12 (Parallel theme): His strength shall be hungerbitten, and destruction shall be ready at his side.