

Job 15:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall not depart out of darkness; the flame shall dry up his branches, and by the breath of his mouth shall he go away.'

Analysis

The wicked's branch won't flourish: 'He shall not depart out of darkness; the flame shall dry up his branches, and by the breath of his mouth shall he go away.' Agricultural imagery depicts judgment—the wicked remain in darkness, their branches wither, and God's breath removes them. This powerful imagery of plant withering under heat anticipates Jesus' teaching about branches that don't abide (John 15). Yet Eliphaz misapplies it, assuming Job's suffering indicates he's a withering branch.

Historical Context

Palestine's agriculture made plant imagery vivid—branches withering in summer heat, plants failing without rain. This connected to covenant blessings and curses (Deuteronomy 28), where fruitfulness indicated blessing and barrenness indicated curse.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' vine and branches teaching (John 15) both fulfill and transform Old Testament plant imagery?
2. What is the difference between temporary suffering and permanent withering indicating divine rejection?
3. How do we maintain fruitfulness during seasons of suffering and apparent barrenness?

Interlinear Text

לֹא יֵשֶׁן מִן־יְמִינָה חַשְׁךְ וְנִקְהָה תִּיבְשֶׁשׁ שְׁאֵלָה
H3808 He shall not depart H4480 out of darkness H2822 his branches H3127 shall dry up H3001

שָׁלֵךְ בַּתְּפִילָה בְּרִים יְמִינָה פִּיהִים
the flame He shall not depart and by the breath of his mouth H7957 H5493 H7307 H6310

Additional Cross-References

Job 4:9 (Parallel theme): By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of his nostrils are they consumed.

Job 15:22 (Darkness): He believeth not that he shall return out of darkness, and he is waited for of the sword.

Job 20:26 (Darkness): All darkness shall be hid in his secret places: a fire not blown shall consume him; it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.