

Job 15:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepareth deceit.

Analysis

The wicked cling to worthless things: 'He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.' Continuing the fragility metaphor, the wicked lean on structures that collapse. The repetition—'not stand,' 'not endure'—emphasizes complete failure. While this describes false securities, Eliphaz misapplies it to Job. Job's 'house' (family, wealth) collapsed not because they were false securities but because God permitted testing to demonstrate that Job's faith transcended his blessings.

Historical Context

Houses required proper foundation and maintenance in ancient construction. Buildings on poor foundations or in disrepair collapsed, sometimes catastrophically (Jesus' parable of houses on rock vs sand draws on this reality).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What foundations in life prove inadequate when tested by suffering or loss?

2. How does building on Christ as foundation enable endurance through collapse of other structures?
3. What does it mean that Job's physical house collapsed but his faith-house endured?

Interlinear Text

בָּרַה מִלְּאָלָּל לְדִבְּרָה אַלְּלָל בְּבָנָה מִלְּאָלָּל תְּכִלֵּת
They conceive mischief and bring forth vanity and their belly prepareth
H2029 H5999 H3205 H205 H990 H3559

מִרְתָּה:

deceit

H4820

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 7:14 (Parallel theme): Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood.

Hosea 10:13 (Parallel theme): Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.

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