

# Job 17:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They change the night into day: the light is short because of darkness.

## Analysis

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Job's world is inverted: 'They change the night into day: the light is short because of darkness.' Job experiences reality's distortion—normal rhythms disrupted, light overwhelmed by darkness. This describes more than insomnia; it's the disorientation suffering brings. Everything feels wrong, upside-down. Yet Job's ability to articulate this chaos shows he hasn't lost all orientation. Naming the experience creates a foothold for faith to maintain grip on reality.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern thought valued cosmic order—day, night, seasons following divine decree. Job's description of chaos invading order reflects the worldview that sin and evil disrupt creation's proper functioning. Prophetic literature similarly depicts judgment as cosmic disorder.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

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

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does suffering distort our perception of reality and normal rhythms?
2. What practices help maintain orientation when everything feels upside-down?
3. How does naming our experience of chaos help us maintain faith's grip?

## Interlinear Text

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חַשְׁרָה: מִפְנֵי קָרְבָּן אֲזֵלָה לְיְלָה  
the night into day They change the light is short because of darkness  
H3915 H3117 H7760 H216 H7138 H6440 H2822

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