

Job 17:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

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

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

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

לַיְלָה	לִי יוֹם	יָשַׁן יָמֹו	אֵר	אֵבֶר	מִפְּנֵי	חֹשֶׁךְ:
the night	into day	They change	the light	is short	because	of darkness
H3915	H3117	H7760	H216	H7138	H6440	H2822

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