

Job 18:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He teareth himself in his anger: shall the earth be forsaken for thee? and shall the rock be removed out of his place?

Analysis

Bildad challenges Job: 'He teareth himself in his anger: shall the earth be forsaken for thee? and shall the rock be removed out of his place?' This accuses Job of demanding the universe revolve around his suffering. Yet Job's questions actually grapple with universal theodicy, not personal exception.

Historical Context

Ancient cosmology assumed fixed natural order. Bildad's rhetorical questions suggest Job's complaints require overturning cosmic order, missing that Job questions how moral order works.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. When does seeking answers about suffering become self-centered?
2. How do you distinguish between legitimate theodicy and selfish complaint?

Interlinear Text

הָיָה	נִפְשׁוֹ	בְּאַפּוֹ	הָלַמְעֵינָהּ	יָתַע זֶבֶד	אֶת הָאֲרֶץ
He teareth	himself	in his anger	H4616	be forsaken	shall the earth
H2963	H5315	H639		H5800	H776
וְיִסָּרְתָּ	וְעַד	וְיִסָּרְתָּ	מִמְקוֹמוֹ		
be removed	for thee and	shall the rock	out of his place		
H6275	H6697		H4725		

Additional Cross-References

Job 16:9 (Parallel theme): He teareth me in his wrath, who hateth me: he gnasheth upon me with his teeth; mine enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me.

Job 14:18 (Parallel theme): And surely the mountain falling cometh to nought, and the rock is removed out of his place.

Job 13:14 (Parallel theme): Wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in mine hand?