

Job 18:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.

Analysis

'Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.' Bildad returns to retribution theology: the wicked's 'light' (אור, or) will be 'put out' (יָדַעַת, yida'akh—extinguished), and 'spark' (שְׁבִיב, sheviv) won't 'shine' (יִגָּה, yigah). Light represents life, prosperity, and hope; darkness means death and disaster. Bildad's theology is orthodox—Proverbs 13:9, 24:20 teach this. The application to Job is slanderous—implying Job's darkness proves wickedness. The error: assuming all light-to-darkness transitions indicate divine judgment. Sometimes darkness precedes dawn (Psalm 30:5). Bildad mistakes Job's dark night for final judgment. The Reformed understanding of temporal and eternal judgment avoids this confusion.

Historical Context

Light and darkness served as primary metaphors for blessing and curse in ancient thought. Bildad uses this cultural framework to suggest Job's catastrophic reversal proves divine judgment for wickedness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do we distinguish between temporary darkness and final judgment?
2. What does the Bible teach about righteous people experiencing darkness?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת אָרֶן רְשָׁעִים יִדְעֶן לֹא תִּגְּשֶׁה!
H1571 Yea the light of the wicked shall be put out H3808 shall not shine
H216 H7563 H1846 H5050

שֶׁבֶת אֲשֶׁר:
and the spark of his fire
H7632 H784

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 13:9 (Light): The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

Proverbs 24:20 (Evil): For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

Proverbs 20:20 (Parallel theme): Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

Job 21:17 (Evil): How oft is the candle of the wicked put out! and how oft cometh their destruction upon them! God distributeth sorrows in his anger.

Isaiah 50:11 (Light): Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.

Proverbs 4:19 (Evil): The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.