

Job 18:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him.

Analysis

The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him—Bildad's second speech continues with vivid imagery of the wicked's destruction. The Hebrew 'or (אור, 'light') becoming chashak (חשך, 'dark') reverses creation itself (Genesis 1:3). The ner (נר, 'lamp/candle') extinguished symbolizes both life ending (Proverbs 20:27—'the spirit of man is the candle of the LORD') and dynasty terminating (1 Kings 11:36).

In 'ohalo (אֹהֶל, 'his tent/tabernacle'), the wicked finds no refuge—domestic space offers no protection from divine judgment. This imagery anticipates Jesus's warnings about outer darkness (Matthew 22:13, 25:30) where the wicked are cast. Yet Bildad applies this to Job, whose 'light' has gone out through no fault of his own—a cruel misapplication of true theology to an innocent sufferer.

Historical Context

In ancient Near Eastern culture, a continuously burning lamp symbolized ongoing life, prosperity, and dynasty. Letting one's lamp go out brought shame and signaled divine abandonment. Bildad weaponizes this cultural symbol against Job, whose devastation indeed resembles extinguished light—but not for the reasons Bildad claims.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when true theology about judgment is misapplied to innocent suffering?
2. When have you witnessed someone's darkness being interpreted as proof of their sin rather than occasion for compassion?
3. How does Jesus's teaching about outer darkness differ from Bildad's application of light/darkness imagery?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה
The light shall be dark in his tabernacle and his candle shall be put out
H216 H2821 H168 H5216 H5921 H1846

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