Job 18:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The gin shall take him by the heel, and the robber shall prevail against him.

Analysis

Multiple traps await: 'The gin shall take him by the heel, and the robber shall prevail against him.' The gin (trap) catches the heel while robbers attack—multiple dangers converging. Bildad multiplies traps to emphasize the wicked's inescapability. While true that persistent sin creates compounding consequences, this doesn't explain all suffering. Bildad's mechanical application ignores divine purposes beyond punishment—testing, refining, displaying God's glory.

Historical Context

Ancient hunters used multiple trap types—gins (spring traps), nets, pits. Robbers added human threat to natural dangers. Bildad's piling up of dangers emphasizes how the wicked face converging judgment, but wrongly assumes all multi-faceted suffering indicates wickedness.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

- 1. How do sin's consequences compound and converge, making escape increasingly difficult?
- 2. What purposes for suffering exist beyond punishment for personal sin?
- 3. How does God's sovereign purposes transform how we interpret converging difficulties?

Interlinear Text

יֹאחֵ ז עַלַ יו צַמְים: בְּעַקֵ ב U ∂ יַחַזֵ ק shall take him by the heel shall prevail H5921 and the robber The gin H270 H6119 H6341 H2388 H6782

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