

Job 2:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him.

Analysis

Job's three friends—Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar—hear of his calamities and come 'to mourn with him and to comfort him.' Their names and origins suggest they represent the wisdom traditions of the wider Ancient Near East. Their initial motivation appears righteous: covenant friendship demands presence in suffering. This sets up the tragedy that follows—good intentions without divine wisdom produce false comfort that 'makes the heart sick' (Proverbs 13:12).

Historical Context

The friends' distant origins (Teman in Edom, Shuah in Arabia, Naamah location uncertain) demonstrate Job's international reputation and influence. Their willingness to travel considerable distances shows the depth of their friendship.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. When friends are suffering, do you prioritize presence over solutions?
2. How do you discern between godly counsel and well-intentioned but false comfort?

Interlinear Text

פָּרָשַׁת הַשְׁעָרָה
בְּרַעַת אֶת כָּל שְׁלַשְׁתָּן תִּשְׁמַע וְ
heard three friends Now when Job's H853 H3605 of all this evil
H8085 H7969 H7453 H347 H7451

מִמְּקוֹם וְאֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר מִמְּקוֹם וְאֵשׁ
that was come every one from his own place
H2063 H935 H5921 H935 H376 H4725

אֶלְiphaz בְּנֵעֶמֶת וְזֹפָר בְּנֵעֶמֶת וְ
the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite
H464 H8489 H1085 H7747 H6691 H5284

לְבָד וְלִבְדֵּל
for they had made an appointment together that was come to mourn
H3259 H3162 H935 H5110 H0

לְנַסְתָּן
with him and to comfort
H5162

Additional Cross-References

Romans 12:15 (Parallel theme): Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Job 42:11 (Evil): Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the

LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold.

Proverbs 17:17 (Parallel theme): A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Jeremiah 49:7 (Parallel theme): Concerning Edom, thus saith the LORD of hosts; Is wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the prudent? is their wisdom vanished?

Genesis 25:2 (Parallel theme): And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah.

Job 6:14 (Parallel theme): To him that is afflicted pity should be shewed from his friend; but he forsaketh the fear of the Almighty.

1 Corinthians 12:26 (Parallel theme): And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

Genesis 36:11 (Parallel theme): And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, and Gatam, and Kenaz.